A HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF KEENE

From 1732, when the Township was Granted by Massachusetts, to 1874, when it Became a City.

BY S. G. GRIFFIN, M. A.

With Events of Interest in the History of the City from 1874 to 1904, by Frank H. Whitcomb.

And an Introductory Sketch of the Author, By O. Applegate, Jr.

KEENE, N. H.
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Announcement.

After several years of laborious work, in which the utmost care was taken by the historian, Gen. Simon G. Griffin, to render the following pages of great interest and value, they are presented to the public.

At the outset General Griffin submitted a proposition for the publication of a history of Keene, which bears date, February 16, 1895. On April 18 of the same year, a joint special committee of the city councils recommended that the proposition be accepted and, on May 2, following, the councils authorized the joint standing committee on public library to make a contract with General Griffin for writing and compiling a history of Keene, in accordance with his proposition and the report of the committee to whom said proposition had been referred.

A contract was accordingly made on the 4th day of June, 1895. At a meeting of the councils held on September 6, 1900, the supervisory committee of the history of Keene, Messrs. Lemuel Hayward, Bertram Ellis and Wallace L. Mason, reported that, as the history was not completed at the end of five years, as General Griffin had worked diligently upon the task, had read to the committee his manuscript up to 1860, had taken notes between 1860 and 1874 and had collected material for many of the illustrations, they thought he ought to be allowed additional time for the completion of the work. The councils accordingly authorized the supervising committee to extend the contract for the preparation of the history two years on the terms named therein.

Gen. Simon Goodell Griffin died on January 14, 1902. On June 19, 1902, the supervisory committee transmitted to the city councils the manuscript of the "History of the Town of Keene" as written by General Griffin, with photographs, maps and other subjects for illustration, and suggested the appointment of a new committee to attend to the publication and sale of the history, with power to make minor alterations and any additions thereto it thought advisable. As one of such additions the annals of the city of Keene, from the incorporation of the city to the date of publication, were suggested. On the same date Bertram Ellis, Wallace L. Mason and Frank H. Whitcomb were appointed a committee for the above named purposes and the councils appropriated the unexpended balance for contingent expenses. Bertram Ellis resigned and the other members of the committee advertised for bids and made a contract with the Sentinel Printing Company for the publication of the history, on October 27, 1903.

Events of interest in the history of the city of Keene, from 1874 to the present date, have been briefly noted and the sesquicentennial celebration, at greater length.

COMMITTEE.

Sketch of the Author.

BY REV. OCTAVIUS APPLEGATE, JR., M. A.

The author of this history, Simon Goodell Griffin, brigadier and brevet major general, United States Volunteers, in the civil war, was born in Nelson, N. H., Aug. 9, 1824, to Nathan and Sally (Wright) Griffin. He came of a stock of more than ordinary strength of intellect and force of character. His grandfather, "Deacon Samuel Griffin, Esquire," was a member of the New Hampshire legislature, and both he and Nehemiah Wright, the general's maternal grandfather, were soldiers in the Continental army and fought in the battle of Bunker Hill. Nathan Griffin, the general's father, was of high ability and public service, but lost his health in early manhood, and the care of the family of seven children fell largely upon his wife, a woman of whom it is written, "She was one of the loveliest of her sex both in person and character, one of those sweet and noble women who bless the world by living in it;" a woman of singular beauty and especially gifted as a singer, with a voice of remarkable clearness and sweetness. She died at the age of ninety-four with eye undimmed and mind unclouded; and while the general owed much to her wise counsels and training, her temperament was her greatest gift to him.

Owing to the ill health of the father, the boy at the age of six went to live in the adjoining town of Roxbury with his uncle, Gen. Samuel Griffin. He too had a decided taste for military affairs, had been a volunteer for the War of 1812, though not called into active service, and had attained the highest rank in the state militia. His habit of discussing military affairs and of repeating descriptions which he had read of battles and campaigns made a deep and lasting impression upon the boy's mind.

He was a successful farmer, a man of energy and believed in industry and frugality as the means of success. Never after seven years of age could the boy be spared for school save for ten or twelve weeks in the winter, and this was all the formal schooling he ever received; but his natural ambition and thirst for knowledge carried him through such private reading and study as his leisure permitted, to his taking at the age of eighteen the position of school teacher, a vocation in which he attained marked success. Continuing his studies while teaching, and working on the farm during vacation, he mastered all the higher English branches, became proficient in Latin and French and covered a wide field of miscellaneous reading, making a specialty of history and the lives of military leaders. Thus by inheritance, early training and self education he was fitted for the special work that lay before him, and had cultivated that patriotic spirit and ability for military affairs which won for him his preëminence among the soldiers of New Hampshire, and made him one of the best volunteer officers in the War of the Rebellion.

In 1850 he married Ursula J., daughter of Jason Harris of Nelson. She died soon after the birth of a son, who did not long survive her. After this bereavement he began the study of law and while thus engaged represented his native town in the legislature, serving in his second term as chairman of the committee on education. Pursuing his study of law at Exeter and afterward at Concord, he was admitted to the bar in 1860 and had just entered upon his professional work when the war broke out. A recent trip to Washington had convinced him of the imminence of war and its probable long duration, so he promptly abandoned his practice, joined a company of young men then forming at Concord, and began the study of military tactics. He volunteered as a private, but was elected captain of the company, which, finding the first call filled, was mustered into service under the second call for three years or the war, at Portsmouth, June 4, 1861. This company was the celebrated "Goodwin Rifles," Company B, Second New Hampshire Volunteers, and by the exertions of Capt. Griffin and his friends,

who guaranteed the state against the heavy expense, was equipped with Sharpe's rifles, and was the first to leave the state with breech loading arms. The company under Capt. Griffin was detailed for skirmish duty at the first battle of Bull Run and "was handled with remarkable coolness and bravery though under heavy fire." Gen. Hooker's attention having been called to the effectiveness of the Sharpe's rifle, he obtained for Capt. Griffin leave of absence and gave him letters to the governor of New Hampshire with a view to having him raise a regiment or battalion similarly armed; but the state authorities with short-sighted economy again refused to incur the expense. Capt. Griffin was promoted to lieutenant colonel of the Sixth New Hampshire Volunteers on the 26th of October and immediately joined that regiment, then being recruited at Keene. The Sixth was assigned to Burnside's expedition to North Carolina and encamped first on Hatteras and afterward on Roanoke island, where Lieut. Col. Griffin found himself in command, with hard work before him in restoring the health of his regiment and improving its discipline and morale, which had been seriously lowered by sickness. So marked was the success which soon followed his efforts that this regiment became "one of the best drilled and disciplined in the service."[1] In April, 1862, Col. Griffin commanded an expedition of 600 men and effectively broke up a rebel rendezvous near Elizabeth City, N. C., capturing 74 men and a quantity of arms and ammunition. At the battle of Camden, N. C., April 19, Lieut. Col. Griffin commanded his regiment, nearly 1,000 strong, and gave conclusive evidence of his power as a disciplinarian and of his influence over his men. At a critical moment he was ordered to attack. "Moving forward now with full ranks against the enemy's right, with a well formed line and colors flying, the regiment made a formidable appearance and soon drew the fire of the rebels. A cannon shot came tearing through the lines near the colors and the line swung back in the centre until it left Col. Griffin standing as far in the front as his place was in the rear. Watching an opportunity when he could

[1] History Sixth Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, page 5.

be heard, he waved his sword and shouted, 'Forward, Sixth New Hampshire!' Every man turned to the front and the line came back as coolly as if nothing had happened. The regiment having advanced until within easy musket shot, the lieutenant colonel halted the line and gave the command, 'Ready, aim, fire,' and the regiment poured in a volley with all the coolness and precision of the parade ground, every musket discharging at the same instant. The enemy broke and fled without firing another shot."[1] It was reported that prisoners from the Third Georgia declared that "we didn't care much for those red-legged Zouaves, but when the regulars poured in *that volley*, we thought it time to git."

On April 22, 1862, he was commissioned colonel of his regiment and in July was sent with the Ninth corps to Gen. Pope's aid for the Virginia campaign, participating in the second battle of Bull Run. During this battle Col. Griffin and his regiment were almost surrounded in obeying an order to take and hold a wood, receiving a murderous fire in front and on flanks. Col. Griffin, thinking the Union troops were firing upon them by mistake, seized the colors and waved them in the direction whence the fire was hottest, but only to increase it; then he gave the order to retreat and brought off the remnant safe from capture, carrying the colors himself after four color bearers had been shot down. That the regiment in that short charge lost almost one-half of its number in killed, wounded, and missing is touching evidence of the men's courage and their devotion to their brave colonel. He did efficient service in the battles of Chantilly, South Mountain, and at Antietam, where, in command of his own and the Second Maryland regiment, he made a gallant effort to force the "stone bridge," and when the attack was reinforced his was the first regiment to form its line on the crest of the ridge beyond. For this instance of bravery and skill he was recommended for promotion by Gen. Burnside. Col. Griffin and his regiment did brave work at Fredericksburg, Dec. 13, the regiment losing one-third of its strength.

[1] History Sixth Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, page 45.

In 1863 he was placed in command of the First brigade, Second division, Ninth corps, and after minor operations in Kentucky was sent with his corps to the aid of Gen. Grant in the operations against Vicksburg, joining the forces under Gen. Sherman in his campaign against Gen. Joe Johnson. After the corps had returned to Kentucky, Col. Griffin was sent to east Tennessee in command of the Second division, and then, Gen. Burnside needing more troops, was sent to Kentucky for the balance of the Ninth corps, but Kentucky being threatened, he was placed for its protection at the important post of Camp Nelson in command of 9,000 men. While there his regiment reenlisted, and upon the reorganization of the Ninth corps at Annapolis, in the spring of 1864, he was assigned to the command of the Second brigade, Second division. That corps joined the Army of the Potomac near the Rapidan on May 5 and did good service in the battle of the Wilderness on the following day. During this long campaign the work of the brigade was so arduous and severe that it had to be continually strengthened, and its losses aggregated three hundred more than its original number, though Col. Griffin, always at the front, marvelously escaped injury. He won his star at Spottsylvania Court House, May 12, by bringing his brigade to the support of Hancock, whose troops had been left in broken formations after a successful charge and could only be saved from being overwhelmed in a counter charge of three rebel divisions by a bold and rapid movement of Col. Griffin's brigade, supported by the corps. "This movement its skillful commander was not slow to make, and the brigade, taking the whole column of the rebels in front and flank, received their terrible onset with indomitable obstinacy."[1] For this skillful and gallant action, "which without doubt saved Hancock's corps from being routed,"[2] Col. Griffin, upon recommendation of Gen. Grant and Gen. Burnside, was nominated a brigadier general of volunteers, and the nomination was unanimously confirmed by the senate without debate or reference to a committee.

[1] History Sixth Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, page 243.
[2] Wait's New Hampshire in the Rebellion, page 309.

Gen. Griffin and his brigade took part in the battles of North Anna River, Tolopotamoy Creek, Bethsaida Church and Cold Harbour; and did most efficient work in the operations against Petersburg, where, "in charge of his own and Gen. Curtin's brigade on June 17 he made an adroit and successful attack on the enemy's intrenched lines, carrying their works for a mile in extent, capturing nearly one thousand prisoners besides four pieces of artillery, more than a thousand stand of small arms and a quantity of ammunition. Gen. Potter, commanding the division, entrusted the whole planning and execution of this attack to Gen. Griffin and most skillfully did he carry out his part of it. He had made a wide breach in the enemies' lines and there was nothing to prevent our advance into the city had supports come up in time."[1] At the desperate battle of the Mine Gen. Griffin again distinguished himself, receiving orders through Gen. Potter to take command of the advance after Ledlie's failure, and push a column to Cemetery hill; Gen. Griffin forced his way through the mass of disorganized troops in the crater, climbed to the parapet on the farther side and called to the men to come forward, but the order had come too late. The fire from all directions was so hot that no troops could live there, and the few who bravely sprang to join the intrepid general were nearly every one shot down. He seemed to bear a charmed life; but at length, unhurt, was compelled to abandon his gallant attempt. The engagements at Weldon Railroad, Poplar Spring Church and Hatcher's Run soon followed and the operations at Petersburg culminated in the attack upon the enemies' lines at Fort Sedgewick ("Fort Hell") where the assault of the Second division of the Ninth corps was planned and led by Gen. Griffin, with Gen. Hartranft on his right. At the commencement of this action Gen. Potter was wounded and succeeded in the command by Gen. Griffin "who exhibited throughout the greatest activity, bravery and skill." For "gallant and meritorious conduct" he was breveted a major general of volunteers, a brevet won sword in hand on one of the most bloody

[1] Wait's New Hampshire in the Rebellion, page 309.

fields of the war. Maj. Gen. Griffin retained command of the division and joined in the pursuit and capture of Gen. Lee's army, and, the war over, was mustered out Aug. 24, 1865, and returned home, having attained the highest rank of any volunteer officer in his state.

His services had been active and honorable to a high degree. He was brave and of sound judgment, gallant and patient, persistent in purpose and yet knowing when to let go. He was a strict disciplinarian and firm commander, and yet beneath all had a tenderness which made him not only respected by his men but beloved and trusted. He took part in twenty-four great battles and scores of smaller fights and was always in demand at the front. He had horses killed and wounded under him in action and his clothing frequently cut by bullets, but he did not receive a scratch, and never lost in all his long service a day's duty from sickness, owing, no doubt, to his temperate habits. He was tendered a commission as major in the regular army at the close of the war, but declined the honor and returned to make his residence at Keene, where, in the early years of the war, he had married Margaret, daughter of Charles Lamson. He represented this town several times in the legislature, serving two terms as speaker of the house of representatives. Twice he received the Republican nomination for congress, but at each election his party was defeated. In 1867 the degree of master of arts was conferred upon him by Dartmouth college. For several years after the war he engaged in manufacturing near his home, and later became interested in the development of Texas, spending some years there with his wife and two sons.

Gen. Griffin was a member of the Massachusetts commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, was for two years its commander, and at his death was the only surviving member of his rank. He was also a past commander of the Order of Knights Templar. A devoted member of the Episcopal church, he was for years a warden in St. James' church, Keene, and delegate to the diocesan convention; and represented his diocese in the general convention.

His long life in Keene was constant in its service to the community. Of broad sympathies, earnest convictions and scholarly culture, he was ever active in its life, particularly in its educational, philanthropic, and historical interests. He was a public speaker of wide reputation, with good presence, erect bearing and a strong and resonant voice, and was often called upon for orations and addresses, which were always prepared with thoroughness and exhibited both clearness of thought and grace and vigor in delivery.

All the qualities of a true manliness that made Gen. Griffin of such value to his country in its crisis matured in his long life as a citizen, the usefulness of which always centered in his home city.

Gen. Griffin died Jan. 14, 1902, and funeral services were held Jan. 16 in St. James' Episcopal church, Rev. Daniel C. Roberts, D. D., of Concord and the writer, a former rector of the church, officiating. The burial was of a military character, attended by representatives of the Loyal Legion and the Keene Light Guards. It was one of the largest and most impressive funerals ever known in this place.

History of Keene.

CHAPTER I.

THE MASSACHUSETTS GRANT.

1732–1740.

Before the year 1740 the grantees and provincial authorities of Massachusetts claimed all that part of New Hampshire which lies west of the Merrimac river, as far north as the present towns of Lebanon and Meredith, as a part of their province. The grants from the crown to the original grantees in each of these provinces were full of inaccuracies and conflicting descriptions, caused by the fact that no one at that time had any definite knowledge of this vast, unexplored country.

An early grant described the north boundary line of Massachusetts as "beginning at the Sea three English miles north from the black Rocks So called at the Mouth of the River Merrimack as it emptied it Self into the Sea Sixty years agoe, thence running Parralel with the River as far Northward as the Crotch or parting of the River, thence due North as far as a certain tree Commonly known for more than Seventy Years past by name of INDICOT'S TREE Standing three English miles Northward of said Crotch or parting of Merrimack River, and from thence due West to the South Sea."

Upon that description the Massachusetts grantees claimed that the line beginning three miles north of the mouth of the river was intended to run along that side of the river, at the same distance from it, to the source of the main stream; which gave them a strip three miles wide on the east side, as well as on the north side of the river.

In 1652 the general court of Massachusetts appointed a commission to survey the boundary line between the

two provinces. That commission, consisting of Capt. Simon Willard of Concord and Capt. Edward Johnson, with guides and assistants, accompanied by a committee of the general court and escorted by a squad of soldiers, surveyed as far north as the "Weares," near the outlet of Lake Winipisiogee. They there marked,[1] at the head of a small island in the channel, what they claimed to be the northeast corner of Massachusetts, by chiseling on the face of the rocks—still to be seen—the initials of the names of the commissioners and the full name of "John Endicott Gov." A line running "due west" from that point strikes the Connecticut river near the south line of Lebanon.

The New Hampshire grantees, following the language of their grant, claimed that the "Southern Boundary of Said Province should begin at the end three miles North from the Middle of the Channel of Merrimack River where it turns into the Atlantic Ocean, and from thence should run on a Straight Line West up into the Main Land until it meets with His Majesty's other governments." That line, starting at a point on the shore three miles north of the mouth of the Merrimac, "would cross that river a little south of Reed's Ferry, pass north of Mount Monadnock, south of Keene, and strike the Connecticut river in the northern part of Chesterfield."[2]

Under her claim Massachusetts granted many townships in the disputed territory: Dunstable in 1673, including what are now Nashua, Hollis, Brookline, Pelham, Hudson, and parts of other towns; Penacook (afterwards called Rumford, now Concord) in 1725; Suncook (Pembroke) in 1726; Souhegan West (Amherst) in 1728; and several others before the boundary was finally established in 1741.

In 1693 Lieutenant Governor Usher of New Hampshire and his council appointed commissioners and surveyors to run the boundary line between the two provinces and invited Massachusetts to join in the survey, but she declined the invitation. From that time on for more than forty

[1] Dr. Philip Carrigan, author of the first general map of New Hampshire.
[2] Report of commission on boundary line, 1895.

SALMA HALE, AUTHOR OF "ANNALS OF KEENE."

years disputes between the two provinces concerning the boundary line continued, and at times were sharp and bitter.

On the 1st day of June, 1732, in his speech to the legislature of the province of Massachusetts, Governor Belcher said, "I think it would be wise in this assembly to take a proper care for settling the ungranted lands," etc., and on the 20th of that month the house of representatives "Voted that there be seven Towns opened of the contents of six miles square, including two on the Ashuelot[1] River above Northfield;" and the vote went on to describe in the usual way how it should be done. This vote, however, was not concurred in by the council, but on the 1st day of July following, upon the report of a committee of conference, their vote of non-concurrence was reconsidered, and a vote of concurrence passed on the 3d, with amendments which were agreed to by the house. But the act was not recorded until after the meeting of the council in April, 1733.

Under date of the 20th of that month we find the following record, the legislature being then in session:[2]

"Friday April 20, 1733 } Present in Council
His Excellency, Jonathan Belcher Esq.r Gov.'r
The Honble. Spencer Phips Esqr Lieut Gov.'r
"Thomas Palmer Willm Clark Ebenezer Burrill
Willm Pepperil John Alford Ezekiel Lewis
Willm Dudley Esqr Jos' Wadsworth Esqr Isaac Lothrop
Jona Remington Thomas Cushing Francis Foxcroft."

* * * * * *

"The Secretary sent down the following Message from His Excellency to the House of Representves viz. Gentlemen of the House of Representves — When I was last at N. H. the assembly there pass'd an Order for the stopping at present of any Process in the Law against the Borderers on the Lines disputed betwixt this province and

[1] "The name was originally written *Nashue lot*. The Indian word *nashue* signifies *in the midst*, and was applied by them to a point or angular piece of land lying between two branches of a stream or other water; *ut* means *at*. The application of the term here is plain. The natives called the triangular peninsular formed by the bend of the Connecticut and touched on the east by the smaller stream, *nashue ut*; and the settlers, without inquiring into the specific meaning of the word, made it the name of the smaller stream. By omitting the initial *n* and with the introduction of *l* before the termination, it makes a most musical appellation. The regret is that our fathers did not retain more of those apt and significant Indian names."—Temple and Sheldon.

[2] Jonathan Belcher was at that time governor of both Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and each province had a lieutenant governor, Spencer Phipps in Massachusetts and John Wentworth in New Hampshire.

that which I have communicated to His Majesty's Council here, and I now send it you by Mr Secretary and earnestly recommend your coming into an Order of the like nature that the people of both Governmen^ts^ may have the happiness of living with each other as becomes good Neighbors and good Christians."

Then follows the record of the act as amended and concurred in, passed July 3, 1732, "Consented to" April 20, 1733.

The following is from the Massachusetts archives:

"Vote pass'd both House in July last, viz: In answer to that part of His Excellency's Speech which relates to the ungranted Lands of the Province — Upon Consideration y^t^ Power is given the General assembly to Grant Lands especially for the Planting or Settling of the province and that by the Great Increase of His Majesty's good Subjects, many that are inclined to Industry have not been able to obtain Lands for the Employment of themselves and Families, and great numbers have removed to Neighboring Colonies for their accommodation, — Voted that there be four Towns opened of the contents of six miles square Each, viz. — One at Paquoiag (Athol) on Miller's River, Two on Ashuelot River above Northfield, the other in the Eastern Country at the Head of Berwick, all to be surveyed in October or November next at furthest by the Direction of Comm:^tees^ to be appointed by the General Court and their several Surveys to be Reported at the Fall Session and the Charge of the Comm:^tee^ and Survey to be paid out of the public Treasury, y^t^ Comm:^tees^ be appointed to admit Settlers and to lay out the House Lots so that ye Settlement may be made in a Defensible manner and to direct in the drawing thereof, but not to lay out any other Division without further Direction from this Court, Each Home Lot to consist of so many acres as the Court shall Order after Report is made of Quality and other Circumstances of the Land, the Comm:^tees^ to be paid as the Court shall Order, that there be sixty three House Lots laid out in Each Township, One for the first Settled Minister, One for the Ministry, one for the School and one for Each of the Sixty Settlers who shall Settle thereon in his own person or by one of his Children. The rest of the Land to be allotted or Divided equally into Sixty three Parts; That one year be allowed from the Survey for the admission of Settlers, and that the Comm:^tee^ be directed to Demand and receive from Each Settler at his admission Five pounds part of which shall be employed for reimbursing the Province the Money to be advanced for paying the

Committee and the Charge of the Survey, the remaining part to be employed for building houses for public Worship or otherwise as the General Court shall Order; That Each Settler actually live on his Land within three years from his admission, build an House on his Land of eighteen feet square and Seven feet Stud at the least, and within the same Time do sufficiently fence in and till or fit for mowing Eight acres of Land. Each Settler to have his Land on Condition that he perform the foregoing injunction, and in Case any Settler fail of performance in the whole or in part, his Right to be forfeited & such Land shall revert to the province & the Comm:tee to be appointed to admit Settlers are directed at the Time of admission to take a Bond of Twenty pounds of each Settler to be paid to them or their Successors for the Use & Benefit of the Settlers in Case he fail of performing the several Conditions and Injunctions before mentioned, & that the Settlers in each Town to be obliged to build a suitable meetinghouse and to settle a learned orthodox minister in such Town within the space of five years from the admission of the Settlers. Consented to J. Belcher."

On the same day the house "Voted that Major Chandler, Mr. Choate and Mr. Samuel Chandler with such as the Honb:le Board shall appoint be a Comm:tee to Survey & lay out by a Surveyor & Chain men on Oath the three new Towns in the Western Frontier agreable to the Vote of the third of July last, viz. One at Paquoiag & two at Ashuelot River and return Plans thereof to this Court in the next May Session.

"In Council; Read and Concurred & the Hon:ble Spencer Phipps Esq. & William Dudley Esq. are joined in the affair. Consented to J. Belcher."

On the 19th of October of the same year the following preamble and vote were passed:

"In the House of Represent.ves WHEREAS this Court at their Sitting in April last past did appoint a Committee to survey & lay out three Townships in the Western Frontiers, agreably to the Vote of the third of July preceding, one at Paquoiag & two at Ashuelot River, and return Plats to this Court at the then next May Session, which service has not yet been performed & the greater Part of the Committee being Members of the General Assembly—wherein their attendance is necessary, and the House being certified that there are great numbers of Persons desirous to settle themselves in said Townships in the next Spring of the year, which cannot be unless there be a speedy Survey thereof:

"Therefore Voted that Joseph Kellog and Timothy Dwight Esq.r and Capt. William Chandler (or any two of them) be a Committee for that Purpose, and that they be directed forthwith to repair to those Lands, and with Chainmen on Oath to lay out a Township at Paquoiag and two Townships at Ashuelot agreable to the said Vote of the third of July 1732, unless they find that by reason of the laying out of the Township granted to Coll.o Willard[1] and others the Land remaining at Ashuelot River will not well serve for two Townships, that then they lay out only one Township on Ashuelot, and that they return Plats thereof to this Court at the present Sitting.

"In Council Read & Concurred—

Consented to J. Belcher."

(Massachusetts Archives.)

On the 6th of November following:

"In the House of Represent.ves Ordered that Mr. Israel Williams[2] and Mr. Samuel Chandler with such as the Hono'ble Board shall appoint be a Comm:tee to admit such person as they shall think proper to bring forward the Settlement of the new Towns lately granted at Ashuelot and Paquoiag, who shall be subjected to the Conditions made in the said grant pass'd this Court in the May Session 1732, that the Committee make Report of their doings as soon as may be.—

"In Council Read & Concurred & Eben.r Burrill Esq',r is joined in ye affair.—

Consented to, J. Belcher."

On the 21st of February, 1734, a return was made by the committee of "A Plat of two Townships, each of the contents of six miles square & laid out by William Chandler and Nath'l Dwight[3] by Order of this Court situated on each side of Ashuelot River above the Tract of Land lately granted to Coll Josiah Willard—and others; beginning at a Spruce or White Pine Tree standing about midway between the South and East Branches of said Ashuelot River, about five perch East of the Bank of the Main River marked West thus and East with three chops with an ax, and from thence running each way as described in the Plat. (See note, page 23.)

[1] Earlington, afterwards called Arlington, (Winchester) had been granted to Col. Josiah Willard and others, April 6, 1733.

[2] Israel Williams was of Hatfield,—son of Rev. William Williams—graduated at Harvard 1729—afterwards judge of provincial court.

[3] Nathaniel Dwight was the surveyor who laid out the land and made the plat. Timothy Dwight was one of the committee, but evidently did not come to Upper Ashuelot at that time.

"In the House of Represent.ves Read and Ordered that the Plat be and hereby is accepted; and the Lands in the said two Townships are declared to ly in and be accounted as Part of the County of Hampshire hence-forward.

"In Council; Read and Concurred;—Consented to; J. Belcher."

(Massachusetts Archives.)

On March 1, 1734: "In the House of Represent.ves Oredered that Coll. Chandler Coll. Church & Major Daniel Esq.rs, & M.r John Hobson with such as the Hon.ble Board shall join be added to the Committee appointed in Novem.er last to admit such Persons as the Committee may think proper to bring forward the Settlem.t of the new Towns at Ashuelot & Paquoiag, any three of them to be impowered to lay out either of the said Towns into Home or House lots, and to be laid in as compact & defensible a manner as may be, & that upon the admitting of Settlers the Committee or the Major Part of them meet at a suitable Place for that end, giving publick notice of the time & place of meeting:—

"In Council; Read & Concurred, and William Dudley and William Clark Esq.rs are joined in the affair.—

Consented to J. Belcher."

(Massachusetts Archives.)

On Monday, June 17, 1734:

"The Report of the Com.tee for laying out the house Lotts in the two Towns on Ashuelot River, June, 1734.

"Pursuant to the order of the Great and General Court we Repaired to Ashuelot where we found in each of the said Towns Respectively That a very large Body of the Land lyes in one entire parcel being Interval Land and other lowlands altogether unsuitable for House Lotts and from the best view and observation that we Respectively were able to make of the value & quality of the Land there, we apprehend it impracticable to lay it out in a defensible manner and to lay out between twenty & forty acres to each house Lot according to the order of the Court and there being (in our humble opinion) no other way in which the House Lotts could be laid out but would Render (at least) many of them far less accommodable to the Intervals and also very Scattering & Remote.

"We Concluded that to lay out Small House lotts lying contiguous and also convenient for the Interval Lands would be more agreable to the Intention of this Hon.ble Court than either for us to Desist and Return without doing anything or to lay out large Lotts which must have been Extremely Scattering and indefensible and therefore proceeded as follows viz.

"To lay out in the uppermost of the said Ashuelot Townships fifty four Lotts in the most Convenient place for Building on and adjoining to each other each Lott Containing eight acres and that place not accommodating more lotts there, we were obliged to lay out the other nine Lotts about three quarters of a mile Distant from the Fifty four Lotts aforesaid. We also laid out a Street thro' each Division of Land aforesaid four Rods wide.—

(Signed) "Sam[l] Chandler Ebenezer Burrill
John Hobson Edw[d] Goddard
Charles Church

"In the House of Represent.[s] Read and Ordered that this Report be accepted.

"In Council Read and Concurred.—

Consented to J. Belcher."

"Tuesday } (Massachusetts Archives.)
June 18, 1734 }

"A Plat of the House lotts in the Upper Township on Ashuelot River.

"In the House of Represent.[vs] Read and Oredered That the House lotts in the Upper Township at Ashuelot as within Delineated and protracted be accepted—

"In Council Read and Concurred.—

Consented to J. Belcher."
(Massachusetts Archives.)

"In the House of Represent.[vs] June 19, 1734.

"Whereas the Committee that have Layd out the Home Lotts in the two Towns Westward on Ashuelot River and paquoiag have notified all persons that are desirous to take up Lotts on the Terms & Conditions this Court has directed to meet at Concord on Wednesday the Twenty Sixth Instant and it being necessary after such Lotts are drawn that the Grantees be assembled and come into proper methods for the Settlement of their said Lotts &c.

"Voted that after the Sixty persons for each Township shall have Drawn Lotts and given Bonds and paid their five pounds according to the order of this Court July 1732 that they forthwith assemble at Concord and then and there Choose a moderator a Proprietor's Clerk and agree upon Rules and methods for the fulfillment of their Respective Grants, and for making any further Division and for calling other meetings for the future and any other matters or things for the Speedy Settlement of the said Township.

"Sent up for Concurrence. J. Quincy Speaker.

"In Council June 19th 1734 Read and Concurred

J. Willard Sec[ry]

Consented to J. Belcher."
(Massachusetts Archives.)

"On the 26th day of June 1734 the General Court Committee met at the house of Mr. Jonathan Ball, Innholder, in Concord, in order to admit proprietors into the upper Township on Ashuelot River. The names of s[d] Com.[tee] are as followeth (viz):

"William Dudley Esq.	Col Charles Church
Ebenezer Burrill Esq.	M.[r] Samuel Chandler
Daniel Epps Esq.	M.[r] John Hobson
Edward Goddard Esq.	M.[r] Israel Williams
John Chandler Esq.	

"On the day abovesaid the said Hon.[ble] Committee Received as proprietors of the upper Township on Ashuelot River the persons hereafter Named. The Grantees Received their Lots by Draught Numbered as Affixed hereafter to their Names Respectively, Each Grantee paid five pounds money to the said Com.[tee] upon admittance Except the Minister, Ministry and School Lots.

"1. Capt. Samuel Sadey.
2. Jeremiah Hall.
3. Samuel Heywood.
4. John Witt.
5. Joseph Wright.
6. Samuel Flood.
7. Solomon Kees.
8. Jonathan Morton.
9. Thomas Weeks.
10. Isaac Power.
11. William Hoaton.
12. Eleazur Allen.
13. Ministers Lot.
14. Daniel Haws.
15. John Hawks.
16. Philemon Chandler.
17. Robert Moor.
18. Irael How.
19. William Witt.
20. Jonathan Whitney.
21. Joseph Hill.
22. William Puffer.
23. Bartholomew Jones.
24. Joseph Priest.
25. Jonas Kees.
26. William Smeed.
27 Joseph Hill.
28. School Lot.
29. Ministry Lot.
30. Edward Hall.
31. David Moss.
32. Isaac Heaton.
33. David Chandler.
34. Benjamin Whitney.
35. Joseph Allen.
36. Nicholas Sprake jr.
37 Abraham Master.
38. Nathan Fairbanks.
39. Nathaniel Rockwood.
40. John Corbitt.
41. John Guild.
42. Joseph Ellis.
43. John Nims.
44. Jonathan Southwick.
45. Robert Grey.
46. Thomas Abbott.
47. Josiah Fisher.
48. Jabez Ward.
49. Isaac Tomberlin.
50. Jonas Wilson.
51. Ebenezer Witt.
52. Amos Foster.
53. David Harwood.
54. Edward Twist.
55. John Burge.
56. Ebenezer Mason.
57. Daniel Hoar.
58. Elisha Root.
59. Mark Ferry.
60. Josiah Fisher.
61. Elias Witt.
62. Samuel Witt.
63. Stephen Blake."

(Massachusetts Archives.)

No charter was granted by Massachusetts. The title rested in the acts of the legislature and the compliance with those acts by the payment of five pounds by each grantee, for himself and his heirs, and the fulfillment of all the conditions of the grant. Under that title these sixty-three grantees owned all the land in the township. The house-lots were laid out by the committee of the legislature, to be drawn by lot, and these proprietors and their successors divided the remainder of the land among themselves from time to time, as will be seen by their records.

"At a full meeting of the proprietors of the upper Township on Ashuelot River held at the Dwelling house of Mr Ephraim Jones in Concord (Innholder) on the 27 day of June 1734 the several votes were passed:

"Primus } Capt. Samuel Sady of Medfield was chosen
} Moderator of said meeting.

"Voted that Samuel Heywood of Concord be proprietors Clerk, was immediately sworn to the faithful discharge of that trust before the Worshipfull Justice Goddard.

"Voted that Capt. Samuel Sadey of Medfield, Mr Daniel Hoar of Concord, Dr. Israel How of Andover, Lieut. Benjamin Whitney of Marlboro, Mr Elisha Root of Deerfield be a Committee to call a meeting of the said proprietors from time to time as need shall require.

"Voted that twenty days warning by posting up in some publick place within the Respective Towns where the proprietors Dwell shall be sufficient warning to call meetings.

"Voted that this meeting be adjourned until the Eighteenth day of September next, to be held at the upper Township on Ashuelot River."

(Massachusetts Archives.)

In the following September, six of the proprietors, Capt. Samuel Sady,[1] Jeremiah Hall, Elisha Root, Nathaniel Rockwood, Josiah Fisher and William Puffer, with Daniel Hoar, Jr., representing his father, and Seth Heaton representing Isaac Heaton, came to the township to hold the meeting adjourned from Concord on the 27th of June to be held here on the 18th of September; and to open up the township for settlement. They must have come by the

[1] The Annals of Keene do not mention the name of Capt. Sady as one of this party, but the records state that he was the moderator of the meetings here, both on the 18th and 19th. When the next meeting was held on the township, the following year, the records state that "Capt. Sady not being present Jeremiah Hall was chosen moderator," and if that had been the case at these first meetings no doubt the records would have so stated.

only practicable route at that time—following an old Indian trail, which, for a part of the distance, had become the "Bay Path" from Boston to Agawam (Springfield)—through Concord, Worcester, Brookfield, Belchertown, Hadley, Hatfield, Deerfield and Northfield.

"None of them having previously visited it, [the township] they were accompanied by Deacon Alexander, of Northfield, as a pilot. They did not arrive at the line of the township until late in the evening of the 18th, the day to which the meeting was adjourned; and as soon as their pilot informed them that they had passed it, they opened the meeting,[1] and adjourned to the next day."

(Annals, page 7.)

The records state that: "At a General meeting of the propriators of the upper Township on Ashuelot River on the Eighteenth day of September 1734, held on said Township by adjournment from the 27. day of June Last past, Capt Samuel Sadey being Moderator of sd meeting.

"Voted that this meeting be adjourned untill tomorrow at ten of the clock in the forenoon to be on sd Township."

"At a General meeting of the propriators of the upper Township on Ashuelot River on the Nineteenth day of September, 1734, on said Township, Held by adjournment from the Eighteenth day of September Currant, Capt Samuel Sadey being moderator of said meeting.

"Voted that Daniel Hoar jun^{r} be allowed to vote in the Room of his father Daniel Hoar.

"Voted that Seth Heaton be allowed to vote in the Room of Isaac Heaton.

"Propounded Whether mesueres Josiah Fisher of Dedham, Samuel Witt of Marlborough, and John Hawks of Deerfield shall be a committee to Survey the Whole of the Entervail in said Township and to allott out the one half thereof, in order to be Drawn by the propriators, Said Lots to be Layd out as conveniant as they can be to fence in in two General Inclosiers, to acomedate the house Lots Layd out by the General Court Committee (viz) That the 54 house Lots have their Lots Layd out as conveniant as they can to acomidate them, and that the 9 house Lots

[1] That was on the "Thompson farm," on the meadow south of Main street and it has since been known as "Statia"—the first *station* of the proprietors, and of the preceding party of surveyors, of whom, doubtless, Deacon Alexander was one. They made their camp on the east bank of the river, very near the town line, and the blackened roots of the pine stump where tradition says they built their camp fire were still to be seen as recently as 1880. But the "sprucc tree" which the surveyors had taken for their starting point, and on which they made their curious hieroglyphic, stood in the line of the township five rods east of the river.

Layd out at a distance from the other house Lots, have their Lots Layd out as conveniant as they can to acomedate them and that they have Liberty to Imploy a Surveyor and Decon Elexander of Northfield to assist them therein, this was voted in the affirmetive.

"Voted that the proprietors shall pay the cost of the above said Laying out of said Lots when they Draw them, or that they will do it by the Last day of May next Ensuing.

"Voted that the cost of a Pilot (viz) of Decon Elexander's press[1] Shewing the propriators Said Township and house Lots shall be paid by the proprietors according to their Interest.

"Voted that mesueres Josiah Fisher, Samuel Witt and John Hawks be a committee to search and find out the best and most conveniant way to travil from the upper unto the Lower Township.

"Voted that this meeting be adjourned untill the Last Wednsday of May next at twelve of the clock on said day, to be at the Dwelling house of m^r^ Ephraim Jones Inn holder in Concord."

(Proprietors' Records.)

The committee appointed at this meeting laid out sixty lots of the intervale land that fall, but neglected to lay out the three extra lots as required by the grant.

The Massachusetts legislature again took cognizance of the settlers as follows:

"Friday }
Novr 22, 1734 }

"In the House of Represent.^es^ Whereas by the accompt of the Committee of the three Towns to the westward, there Remains three hundred and Sixty Eight pounds nine shillings and Eight pence in their hands to be Disposed of as this Court shall order; Voted That when and as soon as the said Com.^tee^ or any three of them on view or otherwise shall be Certified that forty familys are settled in Each or Either of the said Towns and they have Raised the Frame of a meeting house that the sum of One hundred pounds be paid to each Town or their order and that in the mean time the Honble William Dudley Esqr ye Chairman of the Committee be Desired and Impowered to Improve the money by letting it out to Interist for the use of the said Towns Rendering an acc't thereof when he shall pay the said Three hundred pounds, or any part thereof to Either of the said Towns that shall have forty

[1] Probably "presence."

familys and shall have Raised a frame of a meeting house as aforesaid; The Remaining sixty Eight pounds nineteen shillings and Eight pence with the Interest money that shall be Received further to be accounted for—

"In Council Read & Concurred—

Consented to J. Belcher."

(Massachusetts Archives.)

Agreeably to the adjournment of the meeting on the township, Sept. 19, 1734, the proprietors met on the last Wednesday in May, 1735, at the inn of Ephraim Jones in Concord, Capt. Samuel Sady, moderator, and immediately adjourned to the town house.

The report of the committee to lay out the lots of intervale land was accepted with the "amendment" that three blanks to represent the three lots yet to be laid out be put in to be drawn with the sixty lots. As the lots were not all of equal value those of less than the average worth were "qualified" by an additional allotment of two to four acres each. These lots of intervale land, like the house lots, were of eight acres each; and they voted to pay twenty shillings for each lot, into their treasury, when they drew their second division lot. The lots were drawn at this meeting.

It was voted that Josiah Fisher, Ebenezer Alexander and John Hawks, or any two of them, be a committee to lay out the three additional lots, and also the allowances of land to those lots that needed "qualification."

Capt. Samuel Sady and Lieut. Joseph Hill were chosen a committee "to joyn with such as the Lower Town propriators shall appoint to search and find out whether the ground will admit of a conveniant Road from the two Townships on Ashuelot River Down to the Town of Townshend."[1]

"May 28th, 1735, the accompt of the charge of Laying out of the second Division Lotts in the upper Township on Ashauelot River Exhibited by the committee as followeth:

"Josiah Fisher for sixteen days at twelve shillings pr day.....£09=12=0
Samuel Witt fourteen days at twelve shillings pr day.....08=08=0
John Hawks ten days at twelve shillings pr day.....06=00=0

[1] On the 30th of June, 1737, the proprietors "Voted that there be the sum of 27 pounds payd out of the proprietors Treasury to Capt. Samuel Sady for searching and Laying out a Road from this Township down to the Town of Townshend."

Decon Ebenezer Elexander eight days at twelve shillings pr day 04=16=0
Nathaniel Kellogg Surveyor thirteen days at fifteen shillings pr day and for drink twelve shillings and six pence.....10=07=6
Thomas Weeks twelve days at ten shillings pr day.....06=00=0
William Smeed ten days at ten shillings pr day.....05=00=0

on the day abovesaid the proprietors by a vote accepted the above accompts } Total 50=03=6

"Attest Samuel Heywood propriators Clerk."

This meeting adjourned to meet at the township on the second Wednesday of the following September; and all succeeding meetings of the proprietors were held at the township.

Agreeably to adjournment the proprietors met at the township on the 10th day of September, 1735. "Capt Samuel Sady not appearing the said propriators proceeded to the choice of another in his Room, and upon Examination of the votes for that purpose it appeared that M.r Jeremiah Hall was chosen Moderator of said meeting;" which then adjourned till the next day.

On the 11th it was "Voted that Daniel Haws jr., Gideon Ellis and Joseph Guild shall be accepted as voters on their fathers Rights." It was also voted to assess the proprietors in the sum of sixty pounds to defray charges, to be paid to the treasurer "by the second Thursday of May next." Jeremiah Hall, Elisha Root and Nathaniel Rockwood were chosen "assessors to make the Rate," and William Puffer, William Hoaton and Seth Heaton "collectors to gather the Rates." Deacon Samuel Heywood of Concord was chosen proprietors' treasurer, and it was "Voted that William Puffer, John Guild and John Corbet be a committee to bill out this money according to the proprietors' direction.

"Voted to adjourn to tomorrow morning at five of the Clock. Jeremiah Hall Moderator."

The adjourned meeting on the 12th "Voted That Elisha Root, Josiah Fisher and Seth Heaton, be a com^{ttee} to Lay out a Road to the sawmill place, and to cleare the same, and to cleare the Road from the house Lots, to the Lower Township and to desire the other Towns (Arlington and Northfield) to clere their Roads to meet the same, and to prosecute any that neglect, and to be paid at the propriators cost. Jeremiah Hall moderator."

The same meeting voted to "give an Hundred acres

of midling good Land and twenty five pounds of money out of the Treasury with conveniancies, to any man or men that shall appear to build a saw mill in the most conveniant place to accomidate the said propriators, they giving Sufficient Security, to a committee that shall be chosen, that they will have a good saw mill fitt to saw, at or before the first day of July next, and dureing the Term of ten years next after, will keep sd mill in good Repair, and saw bords for the said propriators for Twenty shillings pr Thousand, And slitwork for three pounds and ten shillings pr Thousand, during the said term of ten years."

In case of neglect to fulfil the contract the privileges of the dam and stream were to be forfeited to the proprietors. The vote also required the same parties "to build a good Grist mill on the said dam within the space of three years and three months, from this time." John Corbet and Elisha Root appeared and gave the required security for the building of the mills, and John Hawks, William Hoaton and Seth Heaton were chosen "a committee to Lay out said Land." The meeting then "adjourned to the second Thursday of May next to meet at the House Lott of Joseph Fisher.

(Signed) Jeremiah Hall, Moderator."

The minutes of the survey of those one hundred acres, in three lots, may be found in the Proprietors' Records, page 13, signed by Josiah Willard, surveyor; and those first mills were built on what is now the middle one of the three dams on Beaver brook, near upper Washington street.

Thursday, May 13, 1736, the proprietors met according to adjournment at the house lot of Joseph Fisher—Jeremiah Hall, standing moderator—and immediately adjourned to meet at 6 o'clock the next morning.

On the 14th the meeting voted to make another "Division of medow Land of ten acres Layd out to Each Right by a Skilfull Surveyor, according to the judgment of a committee of three meete persons who shall be chosen and Impowered by the Propriators to Lay out the said Division according to the following Directions (viz) that they proportion Each Lott in quallety by considering the Quallities of Each mans former Divisions to make Each mans Right in all former Divisions alike in Quallety; coupling Each Lott, by saying which Lott Belongeth to Every perticuler Right or house Lott."

Each proprietor was to pay the charges for surveying

his ten acres, and if any neglected or refused to pay within the next three months, their lots were to be "consecrated" to the use of those who did pay.

Capt. Samuel Sady, Elisha Root and Seth Heaton were chosen a committee to make this distribution, and Seth Heaton was authorized to receive the money and pay the charges of the survey. The meeting adjourned to meet at the same place on the last Thursday of September.

It was at this time that the first permanent settlement of the town was made.

How many of the proprietors came that spring is not known, but Jeremiah Hall, Capt. Samuel Sady, Elisha Root, Seth Heaton, and John Corbet were present at the meeting, according to the records, and there are indications that there were several others in the party. It was during this summer of 1736 that Nathan Blake put up his log house, on the lot which is still the homestead of his descendants in the direct line, at what is now the corner of Main and Winchester streets. There is little doubt that this was the first house erected in town, but it is probable that others were built during the same summer; for, by the records of the meeting in the fall, Josiah Fisher, Joseph Fisher, William Smeed, Joseph Richardson, Nathan Fairbanks, Samuel Daniels, Nathaniel Rockwood and Stephen Blake—and it is likely there were others—had spent the summer at the township, preparing for settlement; and the saw mill had been built and completed, ready for use. A large number of settlers arrived the next spring, and it is altogether probable that houses —log cabins—had been prepared for them.

But only three of that party were prepared to spend the winter here. The others all returned to their former homes, as in the two previous years.

At that time the "Upper Township on Ashuelot River," as it was then called, was the extreme northern point of the frontier settlements in the valley of the Connecticut. On the south, Agawam (Springfield), had been settled for one hundred years, and ground had been broken at Northampton in 1654, and at Hadley and Hatfield soon afterwards. Pocumtuck (Deerfield), settled in 1670, and

then including Greenfield, Conway and parts of other towns, was a village of several hundred inhabitants. Squawkheag (Northfield), covering both sides of the Connecticut river and including Vernon, Hinsdale, and parts of Winchester and other towns, had been settled in 1673; Hinsdale as a part of Northfield, lying on both sides of the Connecticut and afterward called Fort Dummer, had been settled by Rev. and Col. Ebenezer Hinsdale in 1683. A few log cabins were put up at Earlington about the same time with those first built here; and the settlement of Lower Ashuelot was made at the same time as that of the upper township.

To the east there were settlements at Penacook, Contoocook (Boscawen and Franklin), Canterbury, Suncook, Bow, Amherst, Dunstable, and the older places further east. New Hampshire had a population of about 12,000 at that time, but it was all in the eastern part of the province.

To protect her western frontier against the Indians, whose incursions were usually made from the west, or from Canada by following down the Connecticut river, Massachusetts had established a line of forts along the valley of that river, at Springfield, Northampton, Hadley, Deerfield, Northfield and Fort Dummer, manned them with a few troops, kept up communication with them, and maintained them partly at least at the expense of the province. In most cases, those fortifications—some of which were mere block houses—had been built by the pioneers themselves for their own protection, and afterward enlarged and equipped at the public expense. But the line was weak from the long distances between the posts and the small number of troops employed; and to the north and northwest of Upper Ashuelot there were no settlements and no protection whatever.

The country was a wilderness, covered with dense forests through which no roads had yet been opened. Roving bands of Indians prowled those forests for game, or threaded them in single file, on habitual trails, to and from their more permanent abodes. For many years but few Indians had lived in this immediate vicinity, and never since the landing of the Pilgrims had this region been

occupied by them in any large numbers. Dr. Trumbull computes the whole number of savages in New England to have been at one time 123,000, but in the winter of 1616-17 a virulent disease swept away, as was believed, more than one-half the whole number; so that soon after the landing of the Pilgrims it was estimated that not more than 12,000 warriors could be mustered in all New England. This would indicate a population of about 50,000 Indians at that time.

The Schaghticoke tribe had lived in this region about Grand Monadnock, but removed to the Hudson river before the arrival of the whites, and but little is known of them. More definite information has been preserved concerning the Squawkheags. They had been nearly destroyed by the Mohawks, and probably came as fugitives to the Ashuelot country, which had been abandoned by the Schaghticokes. They occupied the country along the Connecticut river and its branches from Greenfield to Brattleboro and above, extending about ten miles to the west, and as far east as the head waters of Miller's river and those of the Ashuelot. On this territory, rich in fish and game, they lived for several generations, cultivated the meadows in their rude way, and raised corn, which they preserved for use in winter, and sometimes sold to the early settlers of the towns below. They claimed all the territory of northern New Hampshire and Vermont; but it is not known that they sold lands, as was done by some other tribes, except in a very few instances. They did give a deed to William Clark and John King, agents of the original proprietors of Squawkheag, granting the tract for that township, six miles wide on each side of Connecticut river, dated August 13, 1687, and signed by Nawelet, chief of the Squawkheags, and by four subordinate chiefs of the same tribe—Gongequa, Aspiambemet, Hadarawansett, and Meganichcha. No other deed of that tribe is known to have been preserved; and this deed was given after the tribe had been nearly destroyed and most of the remnant had abandoned their country. They were reputed to be relatives of the Pennacooks and in close alliance with them after King Philip's war in 1675.

At one time during that war the Squawkheag country was the rendezvous for Philip's forces; and his warriors assembled here to the number of more than 3,000. Here he held his court, surrounded by many powerful chiefs and notable squaws. Among them were a sister of Philip, a princess of the Wampanoags; the wise and wary Awashauks, the powerful squaw sachem of Sogkonate, with all her braves, led by Peter Awashauks, her son and chief captain; and the unfortunate queen Weetamoo, the widow of Wamsutta, the elder brother and predecessor of Philip.

To the north and east the Coös tribe occupied what is now Coös and the upper part of Grafton counties; the Winnepesaukees lived on the shores of the great lake; the Ossipees on the smaller ones beyond; and the Pennacooks and the Amoskeags were in the Merrimac valley, their chief places being Pennacook and Amoskeag (Manchester).

The Pennacooks, at that time, were the most powerful tribe in all that region, and their great chief, Passaconaway, had been a staunch friend of the whites. The Pawtuckets were below, and these three tribes, the Pawtuckets, Amoskeags and Pennacooks, with some others, formed at one time a confederacy under the general name of Pawtuckets, or the Pawtucket Confederacy, with Passaconaway for their chief. His son, and successor as chief of his tribe, Wonalanset, adopted the friendly policy of his father, and, when King Philip's war broke out in 1675, he withdrew his people farther north to avoid joining the other tribes against the whites. The Nashuas occupied the valley lower down and along Nashua river, and there were other small tribes in eastern Massachusetts.

To the east, and in Canada, was the large and powerful family of the Abenakis, one of whose tribes gave its name to the Penobscot river, and another to the Androscoggin. It was the Penobscot chief Bashaba of whom Whittier wrote his "Bashaba's Feast." Those eastern tribes sometimes invaded this region, and they gave the name Gonitigow (Long river) to the Quinnehtuck or Quinetticut of the Pocumtucks—the Connecticut—but they never remained here for any long time.

The Massachusetts, or Wampanoags, were in the south-

eastern part of the province of Massachusetts Bay, and their great chief, Massasoit, had also been a firm friend of the whites; and, for a long time (54 years) while he lived, there was peace. He was succeeded by Wamsutta, and he by his brother, Pometacan, called by the English King Philip, who intrigued against the white faces, formed a confederacy to destroy them, and roused the savages all over New England. He was slain in 1675, when his short but celebrated and disastrous war ended.

The Narragansetts were in Rhode Island, and the Pequots in Connecticut, with the Mohegans, an offshoot of the same tribe, to the north of them, extending from the Hudson to the Connecticut river. The Mohegans frequently roamed through this region, and might almost be said to have lived here at times.

The Mohicans—a tribe wholly distinct from the Mohegans—were on the Hudson river below Albany; and the Agawams were about Springfield.

At the same time that the Squawkheags were on the Ashuelot, the Pocumtucks were on Deerfield river and on both sides of the Connecticut, with their principal village at Deerfield; and the Nipmucks east of them, in central Massachusetts, about Brookfield and Worcester. In King Philip's war the Nipmucks joined his confederacy and fought the whites, although previous to that time they had been friendly. All these smaller tribes in New England belonged to the great family of Algonquins, which ranged from the St. Lawrence river to the Carolinas; and they all spoke the same language.

To the westward were the Mohawks, one of the Five Nations of the Iroquois family, the most powerful and warlike tribe then known. They occupied the Mohawk valley and all the adjacent country. So fierce and savage were they that the smaller tribes stood in abject fear of them and called them "Man Eaters;" and the whites learned to dread them more than any other tribe.

When the pioneers from Dedham explored the Connecticut valley in 1668, and purchased their land with a view to the settlement of Deerfield, they found the Pocumtucks more intelligent and civilized than most of the other tribes.

They recognized many of the rights of women, and understood perfectly the nature of the contracts they made and the effect of the deeds by which they conveyed their lands to the whites; but they did not understand the value of those lands, or that of the trinkets they received in payment. Some of those deeds were given by squaws who held their lands by inheritance from their ancestors. A few years previous to that time this tribe numbered about 5,000. They formed a confederacy with the Nipmucks and Squawkheags, and became so powerful and arrogant as to defy even the Mohawks. When the latter sent an ambassador, with presents, to make peace with them, they murdered him and his suite in cold blood. The Mohawks in revenge attacked and destroyed them; and then turned north and punished their allies, the Squawkheags, whom they had once before nearly destroyed.

The Mohawks then swept across Cheshire county to the Merrimac valley, and the Pennacooks, the Amoskeags and the Abenakis—particularly the Pennacooks—felt the fury of their vengeance in retaliation of former defeats, and were severely punished. The Mohawks approached the river cautiously, encamped on the west bank, opposite the Pennacooks, and watched their prey, who had gathered their corn and withdrawn into their fortifications on the east side. After some maneuvering, the Pennacooks were decoyed from their fort and a terrible fight ensued, in which that tribe was nearly destroyed. The Mohawks then recrossed this region and returned to their own country; and this part of New England was almost wholly forsaken by the savages, except for an occasional hunting excursion. The hostile incursions made later were chiefly by those residing in Canada.

So thoroughly had the Mohawks done their work of destruction in the Connecticut valley, that when the pioneers from Dedham laid out their grant at Deerfield in 1670 there was apparently not a wigwam standing in all that region of desolation; and after the defeat and death of King Philip western Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire were almost entirely destitute of Indian inhabitants.

The remnant of the Pocumtucks went west and joined the Schaghticokes, who had formerly been their neighbors. The few that were left of the Squawkheags remained for a short time and partly rebuilt some of their villages, but they finally went north, at one time acting with the Pennacooks, at other times with the St. Francis tribe in Canada, whom they undoubtedly led back to their familiar grounds in subsequent raids in the Connecticut valley. They continued to claim title to their lands as late as 1721-3, and came back at times to hunt and fish, as well as for worse purposes in later years. The Schaghticokes and Pocumtucks also joined the St. Francis Indians in raids on the inhabitants of their former dwelling place.

One of those raids had been made in King Philip's war, in September 1675, when seventy young men—detached troops—"the flower of Essex county," were waylaid and slain at "Bloody Brook," where now stands the village of South Deerfield. Another was made in "Queen Anne's war," in 1704. Deerfield then had 200 to 300 inhabitants and was the most northerly settlement in the Connecticut valley. In the dead of a snowy winter Vaudreuil, the French governor of Canada, sent a force of about 300 French and Indians under Hertel de Rouville. Provided with snowshoes, they came up Lake Champlain to Onion river, followed up that stream, crossed the divide, thence down Wells river to the Connecticut, and on the ice of that river to Deerfield, and took that town completely by surprise. Just before daybreak on the 29th of February, with their blood-curdling war whoop, the savages burst into the fort. Forty-seven of the citizens were slain and 112 captured, about twenty of whom died or were murdered on the way to Canada. Among the captives were the Rev. John Williams, his wife and several children. His wife and two of his children were murdered before his eyes.

Such was the terrors of frontier life in this valley of the Connecticut in the early days. That valley had also suffered from raids in the war of 1722, as well as the eastern parts of both provinces; and, to give better protection to the western frontier, the general court of Massachusetts, in December, 1723, voted to build a blockhouse on the

Connecticut river, and man it with forty men, who were not only to hold the fort but were to scout the country to the west and above Grand Monadnock. Col. John Stoddard of Northampton commanded on the frontier, and, under his direction, early in 1724, Lieut. Timothy Dwight with a squad of soldiers and four carpenters built Fort Dummer —named in honor of Lieut. Gov. William Dummer, then acting governor of the province. It stood in what is now Brattleboro—at that time a part of Northfield, afterwards named Hinsdale—on the west bank of Connecticut river, in a narrow gorge between the hills, about one mile below the present bridge leading to Hinsdale. The river was fordable a short distance below the fort.

A brief description of the fort is given for the reason that, at the time when Upper and Lower Ashuelots were settled, it was the nearest place of refuge from the Indians, on the only practicable route of communication between those townships and the other settlements on the frontier, and even with Boston and other eastern towns; for that route followed the rivers to Northfield, Deerfield and beyond;[1] and it was for many years the principal military post for the protection of all this part of the country. The fort was of logs, nearly square, about 120x120 feet, with strong bastions, or blockhouses, at the corners for mounting cannon, and were so constructed as to be defensible on the inside in case the enemy got inside the fort. Officers' quarters, two stories high, were built inside in connection with the walls, and made defensible like the bastions. There was also a strong log-building near the centre of the "parade ground" inside the fort, called the "citadel," designed as the last resort of the besieged in case of overpowering numbers. The whole was surrounded with a stockade and armed with four swivels and one large gun which was used chiefly to sound an alarm to the other posts when threatened by the enemy.

Soon after the fort was completed, a scouting party of six men was attacked by the Indians; two were killed,

[1] Even later, after the forts numbered 1 to 4 had been built, at what are now Chesterfield, Westmoreland, Walpole and Charlestown, and in the "Old French and Indian war" of 1745, the route between those posts and these townships was by the way of Fort Dummer, following the rivers.

three captured and one escaped. In October following, the fort was attacked by about seventy Indians, but Capt. Dwight then had fifty-five men, and he repulsed them, with the loss of four or five of his men killed and wounded.

In time of peace, about 1730, the fort was used as a trading station with the Indians, and as a missionary post. Houses were built for the accommodation of the red men and many went there to trade. A Capt. Kellogg was then in command, and six Indian chiefs held commissions —from that of colonel down to lieutenant—and drew pay from the province of Massachusetts. When those pioneers broke ground here, in the spring of 1736, there had been peace in the Connecticut valley for ten years, and for eight years afterward they were not disturbed by hostile Indians.

On the 30th of September, 1736, before leaving for their homes in the lower towns, the proprietors met according to adjournment on the house lot of Joseph Fisher, "Jeremiah Hall standing moderator," but immediately adjourned to the house of Nathan Blake.

"Voted that Nathan Fairbanks be scribe to write the votes of this meeting." They then adjourned, to meet the next morning at 8 o'clock.

On Oct. 1, the committee chosen at the May meeting to make a third division of (meadow) land not having completed its work, Jeremiah Hall, William Smeed and Nathan Blake were added, and the committee was instructed to complete the division forthwith. Three of the members were to remain here through a part of the winter and could attend to that duty.

Nathan Blake, Seth Heaton and Stephen Blake were chosen a committee authorized "to agree with a man to build a Grist mill within the said Township where it may be most beneficial for the said proprietors, and not to Exceed forty pounds Encouragement therefor, and to take and give Sufficient bonds for the fullfilment of the same, and to have it built and compleated within one full year from this day."

It was also "Voted that they will build a meeting house at the upper Township on Ashuelot so called forty feet Long twenty feet Stud and thirty and five feet wide, to underpinn cover and Inclose the same and Lay down

bords for the Lower floor and to set the same at the south End of the Town street at the place appointed by the General Court Committee,[1] and that meseiurs Jerimiah Hall, Samuel Daniels, Joseph Richardson, Stephen Blake, and Josiah Fisher be a committee to build or Let out the same, and to see that sd work be compleatly performed by the twenty sixth day of June next."

They also voted to make another division of thirty acres of "upland" to each proprietor, to be surveyed that fall, the lots to be drawn on the 23d of November. Jeremiah Hall was "appointed to keep a Record of the said Lotts, and the respective choyces in order to their being Recorded in the s[d] propriators Book of Records, And that meseiuers Samuel Sady, Jerimiah Hall, Seth Heaton, Nathan Blake and William Smeed, be a committee to Lay out the said Devision." Those lots were surveyed by Josiah Willard, founder of the town of Winchester.

"One Hundred and four-score pounds" were assessed on the proprietors to defray public charges.

Jeremiah Hall, Nathaniel Rockwood and Joseph Richardson were chosen assessors, and Josiah Fisher, Jr., and William Smeed, collectors.

"Voted That Nathan Fairbanks is appointed to act for and in behalf of the three publick Lotts."

The following vote was also passed:

"Forasmuch as the Town Street is judged to be to narrow Conveniantly to accomidate the Propriators, Voted, That Every Propriator whose Lotts Ly on the west side of said street, that will Leave out of his Lott at the front or next adjoyning to sd Street four Rods in depth the whole bredth of their Respective Lotts to accomidate the sd street Shall have it made up in quantity in the Rear or other End of their Lotts."

The proposition was accepted by all the owners of lots on the west side, and to this act of those early proprietors Keene is "indebted for its broad and elegant Main street."

"Voted That this meeting be adjourned untill the second Thursday of May next at three of the clock in the afternoon to be Holden at the meeting house place in the upper Township on Ashuelot River.

Jerimiah Hall Moderator."

[1] Where Elisha F. Lane's house now stands. The first burying place was a little to the southwest of Mr. Lane's barn.

"No person had hitherto attempted to remain through the winter on the township. Those who came in the summer to clear their lands, brought their provisions with them, and erected temporary huts for shelter. In the summer of 1736, at least one house was erected; and three persons, Nathan Blake, Seth Heaton and William Smeed, the two first from Wrentham and the last from Deerfield, made preparations to pass the winter in the wilderness. Their house was at the south end of the street.[1] Blake had a pair of oxen and a horse, and Heaton a horse. For the support of these, they collected grass in the open spots; and in the first part of the winter, they employed them in drawing logs to the saw-mill, which had just been completed. Blake's horse fell through the ice of Beaver Brook and was drowned. In the beginning of February, their own provisions were exhausted, and to obtain a supply of meal, Heaton was dispatched to Northfield. There were a few families at Winchester, but none able to furnish what was wanted. Heaton procured a quantity of meal; but before he left Northfield, the snow began to fall, and when, on his return, he arrived at Winchester, it was uncommonly deep, and covered with a sharp crust. He was told 'that he might as well expect to die in Northfield and rise again in Upper Ashuelot, as ride thither on horseback.' Remembering the friends he had left there, he nevertheless determined to make the attempt, but had proceeded but a short distance when he found that it would be impossible to succeed. He then returned, and directed his course toward Wrentham. Blake and Smeed, hearing nothing from Heaton, gave the oxen free access to the hay, left Ashuelot, and on snow shoes proceeded either to Deerfield or Wrentham. Anxious for their oxen, they returned early in the spring. They found them near the branch, southeast of Carpenter's [Robinson's] [2] much emaciated, feeding upon twigs and such grass as was bare. The oxen recognized their owner, and exhibited such pleasure at the meeting as drew tears from his eyes."

(Annals, page 9.)

In the spring of 1737 a large party of the proprietors came to the township with their families for permanent settlement. Some of their names are already familiar, others will appear in the records of the meetings held soon after their arrival, and there must have been at least forty

[1] The house in which those three men attempted to pass that winter was the log cabin of Seth Heaton, on the west side of what is now the Marlboro road, south of Mr. Cole's, and the oxen were found in the spring, near the branch, southwest of the cabin. (Tradition in the Heaton family, handed down from Seth Heaton.)

[2] Now Elisha F. Lane's.

proprietors in all, as will be seen by the records of the meeting of the 20th of May. They came by the route already indicated,—via Brookfield, Hadley, Deerfield, Northfield and Hinsdale, bringing a small number of cattle, horses, fowls and other domestic animals. Their provisions and a few articles for housekeeping were packed on horses, or on "horse-barrows," made by attaching a pole to each side of the saddle, the butt-ends dragging on the ground, fastened at a proper distance apart. On these could be lashed barrels and other articles behind the horse. The last twenty miles of the route were marked simply by "blazed" trees. It was more than fifty years after this time that the roads were sufficient for the introduction of anything lighter than ox-carts for vehicles.

They came in time for the adjourned meeting of the proprietors, to be held on Thursday, the 12th of May, at the meetinghouse place, Jeremiah Hall, moderator. At that meeting it was:

"Voted that Philemon Chandler be the scribe or penman to set down the votes that shall be passed at this meeting.

"Voted that all persons that have Purchased Rites in sd Township shall have the Liberty to vote and act in said meeting.

"Voted that the charge brought in for Laying out the Thirty acre Division be allowed as followeth (viz)

	£	s	d
"To Capt. Josiah Willard surveyor for twenty five Days twenty pounds	20	00	00
To Jerimiah Hall for twenty days ten pounds	10	00	00
To Seth Heaton for twelve days six pounds	6	00	00
To William Smeed for twelve days six pounds	6	00	00
To Nathan Blake for eight days four pounds	4	00	00
To Stephen Blake for half a day three shillings & sixpence	00	03	06
To Aaron Brooks for five days thirty shillings	01	10	00
To Edward Dale for four days twenty four shillings	01	04	00
To Moses Chamberlin for two days twelve shillings	00	12	00
For the surveyors Diet nineteen shillings & sixpence	00	19	06
To Nathan Blake for a journey to Concord fifteen shillings	00	15	00
Total	£ 50	04	00

"Voted to Assess the sum of sixty Pounds on the propriators of the House Lotts in said Township to Hire a Gospel minister and that the same be collected and paid into the Treasury at or before the first Day of August next.

"Voted and chose Jerimiah Hall Nathan Blake and Daniel Haws Assessors to assess the sd sixty pounds.

"Voted and chosen Ebenezer Nims collector to collect the said Sixty pounds and pay it in to the Treasury according to ye vote above.

"Voted and chosen Jerimiah Hall David Farnsworth & John Thompson a comittee to agree with some meet person to preach the Gospel amongst them at ye Upper Ashuelott.

"Voted That Jerimiah Hall shall be allowed the sum of Eight pounds four shillings and one peney for money he Expended, and four pounds & ten shillings for his time in waiting on the General Court.

"Voted to adjourn the meeting untill the nineteenth day of May currant, to be at the meeting house place in sd Township at one of the clock in the after-noon.

Jerimiah Hall Moderator."

The meeting of the 19th, after passing a vote and choosing a committee to rectify the boundary lines between some of the lots, adjourned to meet at the same place the next morning at six o'clock.

The meeting of the 20th was opened at the time and place of adjournment, but:

"Voted that the meeting be Removed down upon the Enterval for better conveniances there,[1] to be held Immediately."

After some votes had been passed in relation to the last division of land:

"Voted that Mes^rs^ Philemon Chandler and David Farnsworth be chosen and Impoured to Represent this propriety in applying for and Receiving of the Honorable the General Court Committee for this Township the money Granted to Sd propriators when they shall have the frame of a meeting house Raised and forty Propriators settled on the spot, and that they Return the same into the Propriators Treasury."

This vote shows that there must have been not less than forty proprietors residing in the town at that time, and that they had, or were about to have, the frame of a meetinghouse raised.

"Voted and chosen for surveyors to mend the Highways Nathan Blake and Seth Heaton and that they be allowed Eight shillings per day.

[1] One can easily surmise that a cold wind was blowing that morning which drove them to shelter under the bluff.

"Voted to Assess the sum of one Hundred and fifty pounds on the Propriators of the house Lotts in the said Township."

Jeremiah Hall, Nathan Blake and Daniel Haws were chosen assessors, and Ebenezer Nims, collector: "And forasmuch as the propriators Treasurer Lives at a Great distance from sd Township

"Voted That Jerimiah Hall shall be the Propriators Treasurer, and that he be Imediatly Sworn to the faithfull Discharge of the Dutys of that office and trust."

This meeting adjourned to the 30th of June at the "meeting house place."

On that day the proprietors met "at the meeting house frame," and:

"Voted that there be the sum of twenty seven pounds payd out of sd propriators Treasury, to Capt Samuel Sady for searching and Laying out a Road from this Township down to the Town of Townshend Imployed by the said propriators so to do."

"Seth Heaton and Josiah Fisher now Resident, and Samuel Heywood a non-Resident" were added to the committee to apply to the general court committee for the £100 due the proprietors when forty proprietors were settled in the township and the frame of a meetinghouse had been raised.

At that meeting it was provided that thereafter meetings of the proprietors should be called upon the application in writing to the clerk of five or more proprietors, setting forth the business desired to be acted upon; the clerk thereupon posting his notice of the meeting, at the meetinghouse, fourteen days prior thereto. In case of the absence of the clerk, or his refusal to act, application might be made in the same way to any justice of the county, and his notice posted in the same way should be sufficient warning of the meeting.

It was also voted that "no meeting of the sd Propriators for the future shall be held but at this Township so Long as there shall be seven propriators Inhabiting here."

Some doubts having arisen as to the legality of the acts of the proprietors up to this time this meeting was "Dismissed."

So grave were those doubts that on the 8th of the previous December, Elisha Root, Isaac Power, John Corbett

and other proprietors had petitioned the general court of Massachusetts to have the legality of those acts confirmed and established. That petition was referred to a committee which reported on the 16th of December, and the following order was made:

"Thursday }
Decr 16, 1736 }

"A petition of Elisha Root and others proprietors of the Upper Township on Ashuelot River, Showing (etc.)

* * * * * *

"In Council Read and forasmuch as the pet.rs are already Sufficiently Impowered by this Court for the purposes within mentioned—Ordered that this petition be Dismissed—In House of Representat.es

"Read & Concurred.—

Consented to J. Belcher."

Soon after the meeting of the 30th of June, Jeremiah Hall, William Smeed, Stephen Blake, Amos Foster and Josiah Fisher petitioned Ebenezer Pomeroy of Northampton, "One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace" to call a meeting of the proprietors: "To Confirm and Establish all Grants and Divisions of Land agreed upon and Granted by the proprietors, at their meetings," and votes passed, assessments made, committees appointed and acts done at all their former meetings; and "To come into some method to Hinder people selling any timber out of Town, or needlessly destroying of it in Town."

On the 6th of July, Justice Pomeroy, under the heading: "Hampshire ss." issued his warrant "in His Majesty's Name" for a meeting to be held at the meeting house on the 25th of the same month, reciting the objects as set forth in the petition. The meeting was held as called, and Jonas Woolson was chosen moderator and David Nims, scribe; and votes were passed confirming all that had been done at previous meetings. The article concerning timber was passed over.

On the 10th of October, upon a petition of nine of the proprietors, Thomas Wells of Deerfield, a justice of the peace for Hampshire county, issued his warrant "in His Majesty's Name" for a meeting of the proprietors to be held at the meetinghouse in Upper Ashuelot on the 26th

David Nims.

of the same month. The meeting was held and Jeremiah Hall was chosen moderator and David Nims, scribe. Votes were passed and committees chosen to rectify some inequalities in former divisions of lots. The meeting then adjourned to the house of Jeremiah Hall and immediately proceeded with the business.

"Voted That the Lott number Nine In the second Division of medow Land be taken out and be Recorded to the ministers Right before the Rest be Drawn.

"Voted That any man that doth not Like his Lott In the ten acre Division of medow Land, shall have Liberty to deface the Lines, and to Lay it out in any other place, By a surveyor and com^{ttee} on his own cost and charge, And Return a plan thereof to the clerk attested by said committee.

"Voted That the worthy m^{r} Jacob Bacon should Draw the Lotts for the second division of medow Land for the whole Propriety who accepted and Drew as followeth (viz)." (The list of names of the proprietors follows, with the number drawn for each.)

"Voted To Lay out one Hundred acres of upland to Each House Lott or Rite in the following method (viz) to Draw Lotts for choyce, and he who draws the first Lott shall make his choyce or Pitch on the first day of March next if it be not Sabbath Day, and if it be to make it on ye second day of March, and he who Draws the second Lott the next working day, and he who draws the third ye next and so on giveing every man his Day, according to his Draught from the first of March next untill they shall go through Sabath Days Excepted.

"Voted That William Smeed pitch or choose ye Hundred acres belonging to the three publick Rights (viz) the ministers Ministrey and School and Imploy a committee to Lay out the same at the proprietors cost and charge.

"Voted That Nathan Blake Jerimiah Hall Ebenezer Force Daniel Haws William Smeed Joseph Ellis Ebenezer Nyms Seth Heaton Thomas Weeks Isaac Clark Josiah Fisher be a committee to Lay out said Division"—any three of them being sufficient to act.

"Voted That the worthy m^{r} Jacob Bacon Draw ye Lotts for the whole propriety who accepted and Drew as follows (viz):" (Another list of names and numbers then follows.)

The meeting then adjourned to the next day when it:

"Voted That the Com^{ttee} appointed to Lay out the Hundred acre Division shall proceed in the following method

(viz) to Lay out the Lotts in good shape and forme and not Leve small slips of Land Between Lot and Lot, and that they Leave Land for Roads where they shall Judge it to be needfull and if any man shall not Lay out his Lot on his day, nor bring in his pitch or choice In writing to Nathan Blake by the Day then he shall not Lay out his Lot untill the time be Expired for Laying out of Each mans Draught or pitch In said Hundred acre Division, and that they Lay out no mans Lot or choice In more than one piece, and If any man shall not Lay out his Lot within six days after he made his pitch then it shall not be Layd out to hinder any other man of the pitch.

"Voted That William Smeed Seth Heaton Ebenezer Force be a committee to Renew the south-east and North Lines of this Township, and Imploy a surveyor to Run the west Line.

"Voted That m^r^ Jerimiah Hall make application to the Court for a quicker way for gathering In the money, that hath or may be Granted by this Propriety to defrey necessary Charges."

(Signed) "David Nyms scribe
Attest Jeremiah Hall moderator."

"Each lot was surveyed by a committee, in such place and in such shape as the proprietor drawing it directed. Some of the plans recorded in the proprietors' records exhibit figures which Euclid never imagined, and probably could not measure. Common land was left in every part of the township, in pieces of all sizes and shapes. In this manner, great confusion in lines was introduced, by which the owners of real estate are yet perplexed and embarrassed.

"The first pitch under the vote before mentioned, was made by a Mr. Morse, the fortunate drawer of the right to choose first. Attention was first attracted to it by finding a certified copy of the laying out among the papers of the late Noah Cooke, Esq., which was obligingly communicated to the compiler by his son, Josiah P. Cooke, Esq., of Boston. In this copy, the pitch is thus described: —Beginning at a stake on the the West side of the road, marked for the N. E. corner, (which is near the junction of Washington and Cross streets,) then runs W. 108 rods —then S. 16° W. 120 rods—then S. 11° W. 38 rods, for the S. W. corner—then E. 53 rods—then E. 30° N. 32 rods—then E. 27 rods to the road (Main street) at the causeway—then N. 6 rods to a stake on the West side of the road—then E. 42½ rods to the S. E. corner—then N. 3° W. 44 rods—then W. 10° N. 16 rods—then N. 10° E. 40 rods—then W. 10° N. 8 rods—then N. 10° E. 40 rods to where it began. A memorandum on the copy, in the

handwriting of the deceased Mr. Cooke, states that the southwest corner of the pitch is 'the south-west corner of my house-lot.' Starting from that point, the lines have been run, by Mr. Sturtevant, and are shown by the dotted lines on the map at the end of the book. [See map of 1850.] It will be seen that they enclose what is now the most compact part of the village. These boundaries cannot be far from correct. That the South line crosses the present Main street before it turns and 'runs North 6 rods,' raises a doubt whether the starting point is the true S. W. corner of the pitch, or should be farther West; but other circumstances, and especially the fact, that the West line runs along the edge of the upland, tend to remove this doubt. And it is not at all improbable, indeed the survey may be assumed to prove, that the road 'to go to the saw-mill' then turned to the right, at the North line of the houselots, and, taking a straight course to the saw-mill, passed East of where the street now goes, until it came near the site of the glass factory, and that it was afterwards altered. The land is described as 'lying on the plain called Saw-mill Plain,'—so called, doubtless, from the saw-mill just erected on Beaver Brook; and an allowance is made of eight acres and sixty rods for two roads, one eight rods wide to go to the saw-mill; the other four rods wide to go to the river. No road up the river being mentioned proves that no such road then existed."

(Annals, page 11.)

On the 7th of February, 1738, another meeting was held at the house of Jeremiah Hall under a second warrant from Justice Wells, upon a petition of twelve of the proprietors.

"Upon the First article voted and chose m^{r} Jeremiah Hall Moderator for sd meeting.

"Upon the second article voted and chose Jacob Bacon (A M) scribe to Record the votes of said meeting.

"Upon the Third article voted and chose Jacob Bacon (A M) Proprietors clerk.[1]

"Upon ye Fourth article voted and chose Jacob Bacon (A M) Proprietors Treasurer.

"Voted to set apart a certain stream known by the Name of East Branch and Land thereto adjoyning Necessary and Conveniant for the building of a mill or mills for the Proprietors use," and David Farnsworth, John Thompson and Jeremiah Hall were chosen "a committee to Lay

[1] Many pages of the proprietors' records are in the neat handwriting of Mr. Bacon, and his letter of acceptance of the call to the ministry is entered in full, and is something of a curiosity. (Proprietors' Records, page 32.)

out the same," and 240 pounds were assessed "to support the Preaching the Gospel in said Township," and to defray other charges.

Joseph Ellis, Nathan Blake and Isaac Clark were chosen a committee "to procure an anvil Bellows vice sledge Hammer & Tongs fit for the work of a blaksmith as soon as conveniantly they can at the Proprietors cost and charge and to Let out the same to a Blacksmith so Long as he shall use and Improve them in the Proprietors business by faithfully doing their work at their Request, before any other business or work for any other person or persons Whatsoever."

Isaac Clark, Jeremiah Hall, Ebenezer Nims, Seth Heaton and David Farnsworth were chosen a committee to lay out roads "where they shall be found Necessary," to report at the next meeting.

"Voted that Mes^{rs} Nathan Blake Ebenezer Nims Joseph Ellis Joseph Guild Isaac Clark be a committee to provide preaching.

"Voted That Mes^{rs} Nathan Blake Joseph Ellis Obadiah Blake be a committee to go to Dea^{n} Sam^{el} Heywood proprietors clerk and humbly Request the proprietors Book and to take and bring the same and deliver to the Clerk now Chosen.

(Signed) "Jacob Bacon scribe
Jeremiah Hall Moderator."

On the 1st day of May, another meeting was held at the meetinghouse under a third warrant from Justice Wells—Jeremiah Hall, moderator, and David Foster, scribe—and adjourned to the 5th "to meet at S^{d} Meeting House."

"And being met on May ye 5th upon adjournment according to a vote passed on May ye first, It was proposed by ye Moderator To see if ye Proprietors will proceed to ye Choice of a Suitable Person to Settle in ye Ministry in this Place according to y^{e} *Third Article* in y^{e} *Warrant* Voted in ye affirmative. Mr Jacob Bacon was Choosen by Every vote."

The meeting then adjourned to the house of Jeremiah Hall, and under the fourth article it was voted to "give Mr Jacob Bacon ye Sum of one Hundred & fifty pounds (in Bills of Credit of ye Old Tenor) Settlement Provided he accept ye Call of ye Proprietors to Settle in ye Ministry among them."

It was also voted under the same article to "Give Mr Jacob Bacon one Hundred & Thirty pounds of ye Old tenor according to ye present value of it, for his Yearly Salary for ye Space of Ten Years and then to add Ten pounds to his Salary so Long as he Shall be their Minister."

Jeremiah Hall, David Foster, Isaac Clark, Josiah Fisher and Ebenezer Nims were chosen a committee to lay these proposals before Mr. Bacon, "& if he accepts of ye Proposals, to appoint ye Day for his ordination, & to call in Suitable Help to Carry on ye work of ye Day, & to make Suitable Provision for his ordination upon ye Proprietors Cost."

The committee laid the proposals before Mr. Bacon, and after a prolonged consideration of the matter, on the 5th of August he sent in his letter of acceptance, "with this amendment or consideration yt you send to me a yearly supply of fire wood at my Door, and yt from time to time as my need shall require."

On the 2d of October, upon the request of six proprietors, a meeting was held at the meetinghouse in "ye Upper Township on Ashuelot River (so-called)" under the warrant of Mr. Bacon as proprietors' clerk—David Foster, moderator—at which it was:

"*Voted* To add ye sum of Ten pounds, to Mr Bacon's Salary at ye End of Ten years from his Settling among them, & thereby raise his Salary to ye sum of one Hundred and fifty pounds money of ye present Currency.

"*Voted* To find ye Worthy Mr Bacon so much Good fire wood yearly as he shall need for his fire ready Drawn to his Door, & yt from time to time and at all times so Long as he shall Continue to be ye Minister."

Under the third article, we have the first record of roads accepted as laid out by the committee, viz.: "a Road from ye Line Between ye Lower and Upper Ashuelots Eight rods wide by ye Heads of ye House Lots Laid out on a plain called ye Nine Lot Plain, & so over sd Plain till it comes to ye Northeast corner of Meadow Lot No (20) & yn on ye North side of sd Lot, Three rods wide until it comes to Meadow Lot No (18) & from Meadow Lot (20) to ye Meeting House hill Two rods wide, & yn Through ye Town Plat Eight rods wide Between ye Heads of ye House Lots & so on to ye Saw-mil Eight rods wide, where it

now goeth, as also a road or way two rods wide from ye Meeting House to ye River in ye most Convenient place Between House Lot No (54) and Meadow Lot No (12) & from thence Between s^d^ House Lot and ye Meadow Lot Drawn by John Burge No (35)—running Westwardly to ye Ash Swamp, also another road or way from ye Town street three rods wide Between House Lot No (13 & 14) to ye East Beach Hill, and another from s^d^ Street Westwardly Between House Lots No (41) & (42) toward the Ash Swamp Three rods wide—"

From the descriptions, it is evident that the first road ran from Swanzey line to Keene very nearly as it does now, passing the house lots on "Nine Lot Plain" eight rods wide. Descending to the meadows, it was reduced to three rods in width, and in crossing the South Branch and the low lands by the present pottery, where it was difficult to make a road, it was but two rods wide. The rise from the low ground to the lower end of Main street was called "Meeting House Hill." Then "Through ye Town Plat"—the present Main street—it was laid eight rods wide, and continued so to the saw-mill. But that does not account for the generous breadth of Washington street, for that first road to the saw mill, "where it now Goeth," ran much farther east, from the present railroad crossing, entering our present Washington street in the vicinity of Burdett's mills.

The second road, two rods wide, ran "from ye Meeting House" along the south side of the south house lot on the west side of Main street, between that and the burying ground, which was southwest of the meeting house, to the river and on to Ash Swamp. On that bluff around the meeting house and the burying ground there was an open common, as later records show.

The third road, three rods wide, ran from Main street to "East Beach Hill."

The fourth road, three rods wide ran from the same point on Main street west, making four corners there—nearly in the same place as our present "Appian Way"—but it is probable that neither of these last two roads was built, for they do not appear on the map of the village in 1750, while one further north, where Water street is now, is shown.

RESIDENCE OF DR. CHARLES G. ADAMS. SITE OF THE OLD FORT.

Joseph Ellis and Beriah Maccaney (McKenny) were chosen "Surveyors of High ways to take care and mend them, and y^{n} Voted y.^{t} ye Meeting be adjourned to ye House of Joseph Guild, to meet Immediately, and y^{n} met—&—

"Upon ye 6th *Article Voted*, To finish ye Fort w^{c} is already Begun in s^{d} Township, & y.^{t} Every one y.^{t} works or has workt at s^{d} Fort, should bring in his or y^{r} accompt to ye surveyors of High ways, & to be allowed to him or y^{m} as so much Done in mending or Clearing High ways or roads.

"*Voted* To assess and raise ye sum of one Hundred and Eighty pounds to Build ye Fort and to Clear and mend High ways &c." David Nims, Josiah Fisher and Timothy Puffer were chosen assessors, and Solomon Richardson collector.

It was also voted that plans of the divisions of land be recorded by the proprietors' clerk, "Excepting of ye House Lots and of ye 4th or Thirty acre Division, and them to be fastened into the Prop^{tors} Book in a General Plan and all this to be at ye Prop^{tors} cost and charge."

A committee was also chosen to "Lay out Equivalent Land to those whose land had been taken for roads."

"This fort was situated on a small eminence, a few rods North of the house of Dr. Adams.[1] When completed, it was about 90 feet square; there were two ovens, and two wells in the inclosure. It was built of hewn logs. In the interior, next to the walls, were twenty barracks, each having one room. On the outside, it was two stories high, in the inside, but one, the roof over the barracks sloping inwards. In the space above the barracks, were loop-holes to fire from with muskets. There were two watch-houses, one at the south-east corner, and one on the western side, each erected on four high posts set upright in the earth. And for greater safety, the whole was surrounded by pickets."

(Annals, page 13.)

"At a Council Held at ye Upper Ashuelot Township in ye Province of ye Massachusetts &c for ye Gathering of a Church & ye Ordination of ye Revd Mr Jacob Bacon Pastor, present by y^{r} pastors & Delegates ye churches of Wrentham, Sunderland, Northfield & Medway, October 18. A D: 1738—Then Ordained ye Revd Mr Jacob Bacon Pastor of ye Church of Christ then Gathered in ye s^{d} Ashuelot (ye advice of ye Neighboring Ministers of Christ being first had

[1] "On the spot where now (1850) stands the new house of Dr. Charles G. Adams." [Now Mr. Lemuel Hayward's, 1903.]

according to Law) according to ye rules of ye Gospel, as—

"*Attest*—Benjn Doolittle[1] Moderator of s^d^ Council in ye Name and by order of ye s^d^—Council—

"A true Coppy Exa^md^

Pr Jacob Bacon

Prop^tors^ Clerk."

(Proprietors' Records, page 34.)

The members of the church "gathered" at that time were:

"Jeremiah Hall	Joseph Fisher	David Nims
David Foster	John Bullard	Benjamin Guild
William Smeed	Joseph Ellis	Edward Dale
Seth Heaton	Joseph Richardson	Solomon Richardson
Nathan Blake	Ebenezer Nims	Abner Ellis
Josiah Fisher	Joseph Guild	Ebenezer Day
		Obadiah Blake."

(Church Records.)

Soon afterwards the church was organized by the choice of David Foster and Josiah Fisher, deacons.

On the 4th of December, a meeting of the proprietors was opened at the meeting house, and after choosing Capt. Jeremiah Hall moderator, immediately adjourned to his house on the opposite side of Main street. Two hundred and eighty pounds were voted "for ye Revd Mr Bacon's Settlement and Salary for ye present year," and in addition, the sum of twenty-four pounds for his fire wood.

A vote was passed setting apart the common land around the meeting house "for a Training Ground and such publick use or uses," and a tract on the road leading west from the meeting house over the river to Ash Swamp, "for ye use and Benefit of Digging Clay and making Brick."

"*Upon ye Sixth article, Voted,* To finish ye Meeting House on ye out Side, workman Like (viz) to cover it with Good Sawed Clabbords, well plained, Good Window frames; —well Glazed, and handsomely to case ye Doors; and so far to finish ye Inside as to Lay ye Lower Floor and Build ye Body of Seats,[2] the Pulpit, one Pew, ye Table and Deacons Seat, all Compleatly Workman Like—

"*Voted,* That Capt Jeremiah Hall, Ebenezer Force, Serj:^t^ Josiah Fisher be a Com^tee^ to have ye oversight (of ye work in finishing ye Meeting House agreable to ye Prop^tors^ vote) in y.^t^ affair.

[1] Rev. Benjamin Doolittle, surgeon and physician, author of "Doolittle's Narrative," was pastor at Northfield for nearly twenty years.

[2] The men had seats on one side of the house, the women on the other.

"*Voted*, To assess ye Sum of two Hundred pounds on ye Propriety to pay for finishing ye Meeting House as before voted to be done."

"Serj:^t^ Joseph Fisher, Serj:^t^ William Smeed, Leu:^t^ Seth Heaton" were chosen assessors, and Joseph Ellis collector. Evidently there were rumors of war. They were building forts and giving men military titles.

At a meeting held on the 17th of February, 1739, William Smeed, moderator, Joseph Ellis, Beriah Maccaney, Isaac Clark, Ebenezer Force and Nathan Blake were chosen a committee to finish the fort, repair roads, and build bridges.

"About this time, John Andrews came from Boxford, to settle in Upper Ashuelot. He sent back Ephraim Dorman and Joseph Ellis, with a team of eight oxen and a horse to bring up his furniture. The route they came, which was probably then the best, if not the only one, led through Concord, Worcester, Brookfield, Belchertown, Hadley, Hatfield, Deerfield, Northfield, Winchester, Swanzey and on the bank of the Ashuelot to the house lots. When they passed through Swanzey, it rained hard, and they did not reach the station until night. As it continued to rain, was very dark, and as the water, which already covered the meadows, rose rapidly, they, apprehensive of being drowned, unyoked their oxen, chained their cart to a tree, and hastened to the settlement, then a mile distant. As soon as daylight appeared, the next morning, a boat was despatched in search of the cattle and furniture. When passing over Bullard's Island, a man cried to them for help. It was Mark Ferry, the hermit.—Wearied with the noise and bustle of the settlement, he had retired to a cave, which he had dug into the bank of the river, where he constantly resided. The water had now driven him from his dwelling, and compelled him to seek refuge on a stump, where he then sat, with a calf in his arms, over which he had drawn a shirt. The boatman answered, 'we must take care of the neat cattle first,' and passed on. They soon came to the cart, which was afloat. Proceeding further and guided by the sound of the bells, which the cattle as usual wore, they found them on several little hillocks, some with only their heads out of water. They forced them into the water, and guided them, swimming to high land, where they left them until the flood subsided. Hearing cries for help below them, they proceeded to Crissen's house, in the borders of Swanzey, to the chamber and to the top of which the family

had been driven. These they took off, and, on their return home, took Ferry and his calf into the canoe. This, which was known by the name of Andrews' flood, was the highest ever known in the township. The water came within a few feet of the street, North of Capt. Blake's old house.

"Mr. Andrews was the father of ten children, nine of whom he brought with him. Between September, 1744, and September, 1745, every one of the nine died of the throat distemper, and he then returned disconsolate to his former residence."[1]

(Annals, pages 13 and 14.)

Up to about this time, the town had been called "the upper Township on Ashuelot River," but people began to shorten it to "Upper Ashuelot," and on the 6th of October Rev. Mr. Bacon issued his warrant as proprietors' clerk, upon the request of eight of the proprietors, for a meeting to be held on the 22d at the meetinghouse in "Upper Ashuelot (so called);" and by that name the town was known until it was changed to Keene in 1753.

That meeting was opened at the meetinghouse and adjourned to the house of Capt. Jeremiah Hall, Nathan Blake, moderator. Sergt. Joseph Fisher was chosen treasurer. Another division of five acres of meadow land was voted to each proprietor, with instructions to the committee to equalize the lots by adding in quantity what any might lack in quality.

Joseph Priest, Beriah Maccaney, Samuel Smith, Amos Foster and Timothy Puffer were chosen a committee "to go around ye Town & run Every Line agreable to ye plan, Employing a Surveyor to take & run ye points of Compass Given in s^{d} Plan."

"*Voted* to Build a pound in ye most convenient place at ye Prop^{tors} Cost, Fifty feet Square, Seven feet posts, and y^{t} Isaac Clark, Eben^{r} Force, Josiah Fisher, be a Com^{tee} to take care and Build ye same.

(Signed) "Nathan Blake, Moderator."

On the 7th of January, 1740, the proprietors met at the meetinghouse, chose Jeremiah Hall moderator, and immediately adjourned to his house. The 4th article in the warrant was: "To make such grant or grants of land to such

[1] A virulent throat distemper had swept over New Hampshire in 1735, carrying off more than a thousand victims. This year it attacked Upper Ashuelot, and many died.

person or persons as they shall think deserve the same, for hazarding their lives and estates by living here to bring forward the settling of the place." After passing the usual votes for raising money for Mr. Bacon's salary and fire wood:

"Upon the 4th *article*—

"*Voted*—To Grant y.e Sum or quantity of Ten acres of Upland to Each of ye Persons hereafter Named, viz. Jacob Bacon, Clerk, Josiah Fisher, Joseph Fisher, Nathan Blake, William Smeed, Seth Heaton, Joseph Ellis, Ebn.r Nims, Joseph Guilde, Joseph Richardson, Isaac Clark, Edward Dale, Jeremiah Hall, Eben.r Force, Daniel Haws, Amos Foster, Ebn.r Day, Beriah Maccaney, Jabez Hill, Obed Blake, Jer: Hall Junr, David Nims, Timothy Puffer, Eben.r Daniels, Nathan Fairbanks, John Bullard, David Foster, Solomon Richardson, Abner Ellis, Benjn Guilde, Asa Richardson, Ebnr Hill, Samel Fisher, Ephraim Dorman, Timothy Sparhawk, Jona Underwood, Joh Andrews, Samel Smith, Samel Daniels, [39] and to such other Persons, having an Interest here, who from ye first of next March to March 1742, Shall make up ye quantity or space of Two years in Living here and Building a Legal Dwelling House, to ye Number of Sixty, Including those in ye Number fore mentioned by Name——."

Doubtless that list contains the names of nearly all the men who were living here at that time.

Isaac Clark, William Smeed, Joseph Fisher, Edward Dale and Joseph Ellis were chosen the committee with instructions to "Lay out [the land] to each person in order as they are Named the first first and so on as they are Named."

On the 8th of February seven of the proprietors joined in a request to the clerk for a meeting to consider the question of "Building of Forts or fortications for ye present and future safety of ye place and Inhabitants under ye present rumours of wars," and other matters relating to the same subject.

The meeting was held on the 25th, at the house of Ebenezer Nims, William Smeed, moderator, and voted to build two forts or fortifications, "one about ye House of Joseph Ellis in sd Township and another about William Smeeds House, at ye Proptors cost, and y.t they shall be Built when seven of ye Proptors or Inhabitants shall apply

themselves to ye Com^tee^ w^c^ shall be appointed to have ye oversight in Building s^d^ Forts." William Smeed, Ephraim Dorman and Joseph Guild were placed on that committee.

"Voted y^t^ Every man w^c^ works about s^d^ Forts shall be allowed Eight shillings p.^r^ Day, and four shillings p^r^ Day for a yoke of oxen.

"Voted y.^t^ ye sum of Seventy two pounds be assessed equally on ye Prop^tors^ for to Defray ye charge In Building s^d^ Forts—

(Signed) "William Smeed, Moderator."

Whether these fortifications were ever built is not known. The pioneers of those days were strangely lax in protecting themselves against the Indians, as was proved in many cases.

A meeting on the 18th of March, Seth Heaton, moderator, voted that all timber on the common and undivided lands should be free for the use of the proprietors, but no waste should be allowed.

It was in this year, 1740, that the decree was made by the king and council fixing the boundary line—surveyed and established in 1741—between Massachusetts and New Hampshire where it has ever since remained, giving to New Hampshire all the territory north of that line and the jurisdiction over all those towns therein which had been granted by Massachusetts.

The acts of the stronger province in continuing to grant townships in the territory in dispute were felt to be grasping and overbearing, and in 1731 the colonial authorities of New Hampshire had determined to appeal to the home government to settle the controversy. They chose, as their agent for this purpose, John Rindge, a merchant of Portsmouth, a man of wealth and influence, a son-in-law of Lt. Gov. Wentworth and a strong opponent of Gov. Belcher, between whom there was a personal quarrel which entered forcibly into the question of the boundary. This appointment proved to be an exceedingly fortunate one. The agent was earnest and efficient, and advanced the necessary funds to carry on the suit. The case was prolonged for years, and when Mr. Rindge could no longer remain abroad he left it in the hands of Capt. John Tomlinson, a merchant of London, "who was well

known in New Hampshire, where he had frequently been in quality of a sea commander." (Belknap's History of New Hampshire, vol. 2, page 107.)

Tomlinson was also a strong friend of Wentworth and opponent of Belcher. After much delay and disappointment, on the 9th of April, 1737, King George II, with the advice of his privy council, appointed a commission of fifteen members, prominent citizens of the neighboring provinces of Nova Scotia, Rhode Island and New Jersey, to adjust and settle the boundary line between the two contending provinces.

That commission met at Hampton, N. H., on the 1st of September of the same year, heard the arguments of both parties, and rendered a decision with which neither was satisfied, and from which both appealed. The case then went before the king in council. The agents of New Hampshire employed as their solicitor, "Fernando John Parris, a lawyer of much shrewdness and learning, who being well supplied with money was indefatigable in his attention." (Belknap's History of New Hampshire, vol. 2, page 107.) So ably was the case presented, that, on the 5th of August, 1740, the following judgment was rendered:

"Ord.'d and adjudged That the Northern Boundary of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay are and be a Similar Curve Line pursuing the Course of the Merrimack River at three Miles Distance on the North side thereof beginning at the Atlantick Ocean and ending at a Point due North of a Place in the Plan returned by the Commis'rs called Pawtucket Falls [Lowell] and a Strait Line drawn from thence due West cross the said River till it meets with his Majestys other Governm' ts"

By this decree New Hampshire gained a large tract of territory—"comprising about thirty towns"—more than she had ever claimed. It may have been a just and equitable construction of the conflicting language of the several grants, but it has been suggested that as all the best pine trees, "suitable for masts," had been reserved to the crown in New Hampshire, while those in Massachusetts had not, the king and council ran the lines as far south as the charters would allow.

Gov. Belcher was instructed to see that the order of the court was executed, but his sympathy had been with the

more important province all through this controversy, and he was so mortified at the decision of this court of final appeal that it was only after a second and peremptory command that he laid the matter before the legislature of New Hampshire and forced that body to appropriate money for the whole expense of the survey, although the decree evidently intended that Massachusetts should bear her share.

In the meantime, even after New Hampshire had appealed to the home government, and while the question was still undecided, Massachusetts continued to grant townships in the disputed territory. Besides the two Ashuelots and Winchester, Boscawen and Bedford had been granted in 1733; Hopkinton, Henniker, Warner, Chesterfield, Westmoreland, Walpole, Charlestown, New Ipswich and Rindge (as Rowley Canada) in 1736; Peterboro in 1738, and Hillsboro, Lyndeboro and several others previous to 1740.

Having secured the appropriation from New Hampshire, Gov. Belcher claimed the right to run the line. In March, 1741, he appointed George Mitchell surveyor of the east end, from the ocean to the point designated above Pawtucket Falls, and Richard Hazen of the west end—the "Strait Line due West" from that point. Mr. Hazen began his work at once, and completed it on the 16th of April, running to the Hudson river. He was instructed by the governor to run due west, but to allow 10° variation north while the actual variation of the needle at that time was between seven and eight degrees. By that arbitrary dictation, Massachusetts secured a strip about three miles wide at the Connecticut river, running to a point above Pawtucket Falls, which did not belong to her according to the king's decree. But New Hampshire had won her case, had been very well treated by the king and council, and was loath to reopen the controversy. Soon afterwards the distraction of Indian wars, followed by that of the Revolution, drew attention away from that subject, and the line was finally established only a few years since. Identical acts were passed by the Massachusetts legislature in 1899 and the New Hampshire legislature in 1901, defining the boundary.

Later, in 1764, the king declared the west bank of the Connecticut river to be the boundary line between New Hampshire and Vermont; and now, on the west shore of that river at low water, a little to the south of the passenger station at South Vernon, may be seen a monument of dark Windsor granite, standing six feet above the surface, which marks the southwest corner of New Hampshire, the southeast corner of Vermont, and the north line of Massachusetts.

The inhabitants of Upper Ashuelot were greatly disappointed, as were those of all the towns affected, to find themselves shut out from Massachusetts. They felt that the province of Massachusetts Bay was the one to which they belonged. There were the homes of their childhood, and all their patriotism centered there. It was like closing the doors of a father's house against them. They had no connection or intercourse with the people of New Hampshire; and above all, they feared that the title to their lands might not now be valid.

On the 3d of October, 1740, the proprietors held a meeting—David Foster, moderator—and placed the following upon their records:

"The Prop^{tors} being Informed y.^{t} by ye Determination of his Majesty In Councill Respecting the Controverted Bounds Between ye Province of ye Massachusetts & New Hampshire they are Excluded from ye Province of ye Massachusetts Bay to w^{c} they alwayes Supposed themselves to Belong,—

"Therefore *Unanimously Voted* that a Petition be preferred to the Kings most Excellent Majesty Setting forth our Distrest Estate & Praying we may be annexed to ye s^{d} Massachusetts Province.[1]

"Also *Unanimously* Voted y^{t} Thomas Hutchinson[2] Esqr be Impowered to Present the s^{d} Petition to his Majesty and to appear & fully to act for and In Behalf of This Town Respecting the Subject Matter of s^{d} Petition, according to his Best Discretion."

[1] The proprietors of nearly all the towns in the disputed territory which had been granted by Massachusetts sent petitions. (State Papers, vol. 19, page 476.)

[2] Thomas Hutchinson was afterwards governor of Massachusetts and still later author of a "History of Massachusetts." He was the agent in London of that province in this controversy concerning the boundary and spent some years in London on his mission, but had no success against the agents of New Hampshire. He was also agent for the towns that petitioned in 1740. A copy of his petition is published in New Hampshire State Papers, vol. 19, page 511. He was evidently so chagrined at the failure of his agency that he does not even mention it in his History of Massachusetts.

CHAPTER II.

TOWN SOVEREIGNTY AND THE "OLD FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR." 1741–1749.

In 1741, the year of the establishment of the boundary line between the two provinces, by a royal decree New Hampshire was made an independent province, and Benning Wentworth was appointed governor.

But for a long time Upper Ashuelot, cut off from Massachusetts and ignored by New Hampshire, took no part in provincial affairs; nor was she invited to do so. The governor would issue his precepts to the sheriff directing him to warn the several towns in the eastern and central parts of the province to choose representatives to the general assembly, but never mentioning those in the Connecticut valley. For twenty-seven years after it became a New Hampshire town Upper Ashuelot had almost nothing to do with the province, its first representative, Capt. Josiah Willard, being elected in 1768.

It was a case of complete town sovereignty and independence. The little hamlet in the wilderness, which "had now become a considerable village," was a miniature republic—made its own laws and managed its own affairs without interference from higher political powers. What protection it had in its struggle with the savages, which began in 1744, came from Massachusetts.

Apparently the first intercourse the town had with the province of New Hampshire was a complaint from Rev. Mr. Bacon in 1742, joined with one from Rev. Mr. Ashley of Winchester, that the inhabitants refused to pay their taxes for the support of the minister; for we find the following in Provincial Records, Vol. 5, p. 189:

"*Governor's Orders.*

"Province of New Hampshire } Portsmouth, Jan. 31, 1742.

"It having been represented to his Excellency that many of the Inhabitants residing on the King's Lands, since his

Majesty has been pleased to determine the boundarys between this Province & the Massachusetts Bay, have refused to pay their Taxes towards the support of their Ministers, alledging that there is no Law of the Province to oblige them thereto; I am therefore by his Excellency's Command to inform the respective Inhabitants, that it will be very agreable to the Governor that you & each of you, who have been delinquent on that occasion, do forthwith comply with your obligations in regard to the payment of your Ministers, as a contrary behavior will incur his Excellency's displeasure.

By his Excellency's Command.

"*To the Several Inhabitants on the King's Lands in New Hampshire.*

"Coppys Delivered to Messrs Ashley & Bacon ministers at Winchester & Ashuelot on Connecticut."

On the 19th of November, 1740, a meeting of the proprietors at the house of William Smeed—Capt. Jeremiah Hall, moderator—after passing the usual vote to raise money for Mr. Bacon's salary and provide his fire wood:

"*Voted*, That those who have Intrest in ye Nine Lot plain, So Called, have Liberty to thro up y.^r^ respective Intrests and to Lay y^m^ out in another Place in ye Now undivided Upland." Josiah Fisher, Beriah Maccaney and David Foster were chosen a committee to lay out their new selections.

Several roads, two rods wide, which had been laid out by the committee, were accepted, only one of which can now be traced. That one is described as "another Road Leading from ye Town Street along thro Capt. Halls House Lot, and John Corbits qualification to Leu.^t^ Heatons Thirty acre Lot N^o^ (1) at ye Southerly part of ye Beach Hill." This was our present Baker street and the lower end of Marlboro street.

A meeting held at the meetinghouse on the 7th of September, 1741—Capt. Jeremiah Hall, moderator:

"*Voted* That ye meeting House be removed from ye place where it now Stands to the most Convenient place on ye Hill over against ye House of Mr Isaac Clark,[1] and

[1] "This hill which has entirely disappeared, was a conical eminence in the street, a few rods south of the old Ralston tavern.[2] The meetinghouse was accordingly removed thither, and was placed near the centre of the street, the travelled path being east of it." (Annals, page 16.)

[2] "I built my house in 1828, directly in rear of the old Ralston tavern. The main part of the old tavern was afterwards removed to the site of the present Appleton house."—Gen. James Wilson. The Ralston tavern was not built until 1775, or later.

y^t ye charge of moving ye Same be Laid on ye Proprietors and Drawn out of ye Prop^tors Treasury."

Ebenezer Force, Dea. Josiah Fisher, Joseph Richardson, Benjamin Guild and Timothy Puffer were chosen a committee to make the removal. At a meeting on the 18th of August the year previous, leave had been granted to certain parties to move the meetinghouse "as far as Serg't William Smeeds, against ye ends of ye Ministry and School House Lotts," which were the northernmost ones on the west side of the street, but the removal was not made. At that same meeting grants of land were made to the three public lots, the same as had been made to the other sixty lots, which had been neglected in making the divisions.

"Voted, That the Road now Leading from ye Meeting House Platt over ye River into ye Ash Swamp by ye South Side of House Lot N° 54 be changed and Go on ye North Side of s^d Lot upon Timothy Puffers Digging Down ye Hill and making a good Road to ye River."

John Andrews was chosen proprietors' treasurer.

"Upon *the 6th Article voted*, That if the Collectors Shall be obliged or Necessitated to go thro' a course of Law to recover their Collections, and the Massachusetts Law by w^c we are or have been Supported Should fail, That then they shall Draw ye Charge of posting, and charge w^c they are or shall be at, out of the Publick or Prop^tors Treasurey."

A meeting of the proprietors was held at the meetinghouse on the 27th of July, 1742—Capt. Jeremiah Hall, moderator—at which it was:

"Voted, That whereas there was a vote passed by this Propriety December ye 4th, 1738, to glaze the Meeting House and set the glass in Lead, and to cover the outside of s^d Meeting House with Sawed Clapboards, we do now, Having tho't Sedately upon it, agree and vote to Set the glass in wood, and to cover the out Side with Shingles, for the following Reasons, 1. Bec: we Judge it Stronger, and 2. Bec: we can do it at less Expense of money, w^c is no Small article, not Easy to be obtained by us at this Day and that the Com^tee then appointed and Chosen to See the work done, in y.^t way be hereby Impowered and Desired to See that the work be done this fall as now agreed upon, and all the other work then voted to be done, as soon as may be and Likewise that the s^d Com^tee

be appointed and Desired to underpin the Meeting House, or See that it be done, and take an account of the same —and whereas the Prop^{tors} agreed with the first Com^{tee} about the Meeting House to make the Doors plain, and paid for their being thus done, we agree to have them done otherwise, Even framed, or pannel Doors, and the South Door to be a Double folding Door, and that the Com^{tee} agree with a man to do it well and Decently as Becomes Such an House, and Bring the charge of it into ye Prop^{tors} what is more than plain Doors—and whereas there was Some Sawed Clapboards provided to cover the Meeting House agreable to ye vote y^{n} passed, in ye year afores^{d}, voted that the Com^{tee} take care and Dispose of s^{d} Clapboards, for the use of the Propriety.

Jeremiah Hall Moderator."

The next meeting of the proprietors was held at the meetinghouse on the 28th of September, 1743—Capt Jeremiah Hall, moderator. The annual salary of the minister was voted as usual, and Joseph Guild, Josiah Fisher and Joseph Fisher were chosen a committee to let out the school lot to be cleared and brought "into grass and under good Improvement."

A meeting at the meetinghouse on the 16th of January, 1744, chose Jeremiah Hall moderator, and adjourned to the house of Ebenezer Daniels.

"*Voted* That the Rates or Taxes be made or Levied for ye years past and for the future in the following manner till further orders *viz.* that Each House Lot Belonging to each Right to the N^{o} of Sixty be assessed"

	£	s	d
The sum of	0	06	4.
The eight acre division	0	10	0.
The 30 acre division	0	05	0.
The 10 acre division	0	10	0.
The 100 acre division	0	30	0.
The 5 acre division	0	04	0.
The 10 acre division of upland	0	01	0.
And the after divisions belonging to each right	0	05	0.

A vote was passed allowing Capt. Jeremiah Hall eight pounds, "old Tenor for getting that 100 pounds at Boston of Co^{ll} Dudley." This must have been the one hundred pounds to which the town was entitled by the terms of the Massachusetts grant: "When forty families are settled in Each or Either of the said towns and they have Raised the frame of a meeting house"—all dues having been paid.

The proprietors were fortunate in securing it, for it was

then nearly seven years since they had applied for it, and for three years they had been a New Hampshire settlement.

The operations of the sawmill having been unsatisfactory, Ebenezer Force, Joseph Green, William Smeed, Mark Ferry and Joseph Ellis were chosen a committee "to Treat with John Corbit and Elisha Root, and if any thing may be done to oblige them to Repair, or Build a good Sawmill, that may answer the End Proposed, In the Land and Money Granted by this Propriety, for ye Building of ye s^{d} Mill, or of a Saw-mill, for ye Benefit of ye Propriety."

It was during this year and the one following that the fatal throat distemper prevailed here, and John Andrews buried every one of his nine children, as already related; and there were many other deaths.

On the 29th of March, England formally declared war against France. By a policy more conciliatory than that of the English the French had won over to themselves the Indians of Canada and most of the few yet remaining in New England, and made them allies in their attacks on the English colonies. They offered bounties for scalps and for prisoners delivered in Canada.

Since the late French and Indian war of 1754 to 1760, this earlier one has been called the "Old French and Indian War." The report of its declaration reached the colonies early in the summer and brought dismay to the hearts of the settlers; for they foresaw that the savages would be let loose upon them with all their frightful methods of conducting warfare. The hardships and privations of the pioneers were great, at best, and now, in addition to those, the constant danger of massacre or capture by relentless savages loomed up before them. They abandoned the work of clearing their lands and making improvements, except such as could be done in the immediate vicinity of their forts, and turned their attention to completing and strengthening their defences. They dared not go out to cultivate their fields, although that industry was their main dependence for food, except with arms at hand; and when they went they usually did so in squads, with sentinels to watch for the wily foe, or under a guard of soldiers, if troops were stationed at their fort.

In addition to these trials, a call was almost immediately made by the British commanders for troops for expeditions against the French, which drew away from the settlements the regular soldiers and many of the able-bodied citizens, who went as volunteers, or by draft, and sometimes by impressment. Four thousand of the fighting men of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut were drawn off to make up the army of Gen. William Pepperell to operate against Louisburg. These calls made a heavy draft on the fighting force of the provinces, and left the frontiers almost destitute of defenders. The settlers were alarmed and cast about for means of resistance, and called upon the authorities of Massachusetts for protection.

A meeting of the proprietors held at the meetinghouse on the 25th of February, 1745, chose Joseph Green, moderator, and adjourned to the house of Philemon Chandler. On the second article in the warrant:

"*Voted* and Granted the Sum of one Hundred and fifty four Pounds, old Tenor, for the Revd Mr Bacons Support for ye Present Year.

"*Voted*, That the Support Granted for ye Revd Mr Bacon for ye year Anno Domini 1744, Being the Sum of one Hundred and Fifty four pounds old Tenor, and by Reason of war and Sickness was Neglected and not assessed, Be brought into ye Rates or assessment Granted; Levied by ye same assessors, and comitted to the Same Collector y.^{t} Shall be chosen at this Meeting. The Support Granted for ye last year w^{c} should have been Collected and paid in October ye 18th 1744, be paid in the First of April next, and this years Support now Granted to be paid in ye 18th of Oct. this Date."

On the 8th article: "To see if they will Seek any further Protection in Case the war continues"—voted not to act. A convention of delegates from the towns in this vicinity had met, however, at Fort Dummer on the 20th of March preceding, to consider the matter of joining in a petition to the general court of Massachusetts for better protection. Capt. Jeremiah Hall and Ebenezer Force were delegates from Upper Ashuelot to that convention, which voted to leave the matter to a committee consisting of Col. Josiah Willard, Col. Ebenezer Hinsdell, Major Josiah

Willard, Rev. Joseph Ashley, Capt. William Symes and Capt. James Heaton, to determine when and in what manner a petition should be preferred.

The provincial authorities, though hampered by their straitened condition, made preparations for defence. Col. John Stoddard of the Hampshire county regiment of militia had again been appointed commander on the western frontiers, with Capt. Ephraim Williams in command of the cordon of forts, Major Israel Williams of Hatfield, chief commissary, and Capt. Josiah Willard at Fort Dummer and "Rev. Ebenezer Hinsdell at Hinsdell's Fort" assistant commissaries.

The general court of Massachusetts on "Sabbath, June 2, 1744, *Voted*, that 500 men be impressed out of the foot companies and ordered to march under such officers to such parts of the frontiers as may be deemed best, there to be placed in garrison or employed in scouring the woods as the circumstances require." Two hundred of these troops were sent to the western frontiers. The war was expected to be of short duration, and the terms of enlistment were short. On the 13th of June the general court ordered "500 more men to be raised for the defence of the frontiers, said levies 'to be paid till the 15th of October and no longer.'"

"Sabbath, Oct. 13," the general court passed an order that the pay of men in the service be stopped on the 15th. "But inasmuch as it may be necessary for some marching scouts to be employed in the winter, *ordered*, that 12 men of each of the 5 snowshoe companies in the western parts, amounting to 60 in all, be detached and sent out under a captain commissioned for that purpose, to scout and range the woods for the four months next coming, their march to be from Contookook on the Merrimack river to the westward as far as the Captain-General shall think best."

Massachusetts offered bounties—eighty pounds for an Indian captive, or seventy-five pounds for his scalp; forty-two pounds each for female captives and boys under twelve, and for scalps of the same, thirty-six pounds, ten shillings and sixpence.

Gov. Wentworth sent scouting parties up the Merrimac valley and through the northern part of New Hampshire, but none into the Connecticut valley, as those settlers were considered Massachusetts people, and were left to the care of that province. New Hampshire had forts or blockhouses at Canterbury, Contoocook, Hopkinton, Penacook (Boscawen), Suncook, Merrimac, Amherst and along the eastern border of the province.

For her own protection Massachusetts had added several forts to those previously built in the Connecticut valley, besides the two small ones at Upper and Lower Ashuelot, which were now strengthened and manned with a few soldiers. Bridgman's and Sartwell's forts were on the west bank of the Connecticut, a short distance apart and a few miles below Fort Dummer, in what is now Vernon, Vt. On the east bank of the river, on the trail (which was now a well worn path, or road) leading from Northfield to Fort Dummer, Rev. and Col. Ebenezer Hinsdell had built a fort in 1743, about sixty rods from the river, in what is now Hinsdale; and he had a mill on a brook near his fort. Shattuck's fort was also on this road, built on both sides of a brook and connected by a small bridge, the whole surrounded by a stockade. Above Fort Dummer four forts had been built, known by their numbers—No. 1 at what is now Chesterfield, No. 2 at Westmoreland, No. 3 at Great Falls (Walpole), and No. 4 at Charlestown. There was also at this time a fort in the middle of the Putney meadows, known as Great Meadows,[1] which was kept up for many years. These forts were still maintained by Massachusetts, and were under the general oversight of Col. Stoddard.

Fort Dummer had been thoroughly repaired and mounted with guns; but when it was found to be above the boundary line, in the territory of New Hampshire, Gov. Shirley applied to the home government to be relieved from its support; and at the suggestion of the crown Gov. Wentworth advised the assembly of New Hampshire to assume its future maintenance. But the assembly declined

[1] New Hampshire State Papers, vol. 6, page 313; Aldrich's Walpole; History of Chesterfield, 22; and Heaton's Vermont.

to take any such action, on the ground that the fort was fifty miles from any of the New Hampshire settlements, with no roads thereto, and could afford them but slight protection; that if they assumed the support of Fort Dummer—the principal bone of contention—all the other forts in the Connecticut valley would fall to their charge, including No. 4, the next post in importance, and the one farthest advanced towards the enemy's country, and therefore the most exposed; that the people of the province had been so severely taxed for the support of the war and for other purposes that they were not able to bear the expense; that the title to all those lands granted by Massachusetts was in dispute and it was doubtful if taxes could be collected on them; and that those Massachusetts people should look to the Massachusetts government for protection.

The governor dissolved the assembly and called another, and recommended the same measure in an eloquent appeal, but that assembly was as stubborn as the former one. The members believed that if New Hampshire declined to maintain those forts, Massachusetts would support them for the protection of her own frontiers. And so it proved, for when it was learned that New Hampshire had refused to provide for them, the general court of Massachusetts voted its usual support to Fort Dummer, and provided for the other forts on the Connecticut and its branches. Capt. Josiah Willard, who had done much surveying in Upper Ashuelot, had a company of twenty men at Fort Dummer, in the service of that province, and Capt. Phineas Stevens, of whom we shall have much to relate, was at No. 4, but no troops had yet been sent him.

With the opening of the spring of 1745, came small bands of Indians, prowling the forests, instigated to mischief by the French, and often led and assisted by them. On the 26th of March they burnt the house of Rev. Timothy Harrington at Lower Ashuelot. At Great Meadows, on the 5th of July, as William Phipps was hoeing his corn, he was seized by two Indians and compelled to go with them, but was permitted to carry his hoe. They started up the river. When they had gone about half a mile one

of the Indians ran back a short distance to bring something that had been left behind. Watching his opportunity, Phipps with his hoe knocked down the one who remained, giving him a death blow; then, seizing his gun, shot the other as he came up. Starting to escape he fell into the hands of three others of the same party who killed and scalped him. Five days later they made their first appearance here at Upper Ashuelot.

"On the 10th of July, deacon Josiah Fisher was killed, as he was driving his cow to pasture. The road leading up the river, then left the main street, by Mr. Lamson's tan yard,[1] led along the margin of the meadow, back of his house, crossed West street a few rods west of Aaron Hall's house,[2] and continued up the river, near the adjoining low land, until it came upon the route of the present turnpike,[3] above deacon Wilder's house, now occupied as a tavern.[4] Fisher was found dead, and scalped, in the road, near where Mr. Lamson's bark house now stands;[5] and it was supposed that the Indian who shot him, was concealed behind a log, which then lay within the present limits of Mr. Lamson's garden.[6] He had a brass slug in his wrist, which, at the time, was conjectured to have been cut from a warming pan, that had lately been lost by one of the inhabitants."

(Annals, page 18.)

Immediately upon receiving information of these outrages Gov. Wentworth again sent out the scouting parties of the previous year, with some addition to their numbers. One was a company of mounted men under Capt. Potter of Londonderry, and another of thirty-seven infantry under the noted Capt. John Goffe.

For three months all was quiet in the Connecticut valley. Then, on the 11th of October, a party of Indians came to Great Meadows and captured Nehemiah How, who was cutting wood a short distance from the fort. The alarm was given, and one Indian was killed by a shot from the garrison. As they were leading How away up the river, Daniel Rugg and Robert Baker came down in a canoe. The Indians fired upon them, killing Rugg, but Baker escaped.

Reports of How's capture reached the posts down the

[1] Where Lamson block now stands. [2] Now the site of the Thayer library building. [3] Court street. [4] Known as the "Old Sun Tavern." [5] Now Woodbury & Howard's furniture shop. [6] Still kept as a garden on the Lamson estate.

river the same day—doubtless by canoe on the current of the stream. A company of twenty-nine mounted men started from Deerfield at 3 p. m., and reached Fort Dummer at 10 o'clock. There they found Ensign Stratton with ten men from Northfield. Col. Willard, the commander, had already left in pursuit, with fifty-four men. The reports of the number of Indians in the party varied greatly, some setting it as high as eighty, others much lower. The next morning, Sunday, the Deerfield and Northfield party of forty men pushed forward and joined Col. Willard; and they followed the trail till sunset, reaching a point where the enemy had scattered in different directions. There they bivouaced for the night, and the next morning pushed on to No. 4, but no Indians were seen. Tuesday morning they all set out for home by the way of Upper Ashuelot and Northfield. The Deerfield men reached home Wednesday night. How was taken to Crown Point and thence to Quebec. He was kindly treated by the French, but died in prison.

No attacks were made upon the settlers during the winter, but the spring of 1746 opened with frightful raids from the savages. These were made chiefly by the St. Francis tribe of Canada, conducted in their movements by their allies, the Squawkheags, who were familiar with all this part of the country. These predatory bands were usually made up in part of French soldiers and commanded by French officers, sent out by Beauharnais, governor of Canada.

"March 19, the proprietors agreed to raise the sum of forty pounds, lawful money of New-England, ($133.33,) or one hundred and sixty pounds, old tenor, for the Rev. Mr. Bacon's support the present year. From this vote, it appears that, at this time, old tenor, in comparison with lawful money, was as four to one.

"Here occurs a chasm in the proprietors' records, which the following relation of events will sufficiently account for."

(Annals, page 18.)

Sometime in April, Massachusetts sent a few men to each of the posts, two to Great Meadows, four to No. 4, and four each to Upper and Lower Ashuelot, with a large number to Fort Dummer and the posts below. By a

previous order Capt. Phineas Stevens was to raise a company of sixty men, thirty of whom were to be stationed at No. 4, and that force arrived there a few weeks later.

On the 19th of April, Ensign De Neuville with about forty French and Indians attacked No. 4, took Capt. John Spafford, Lieut. Isaac Parker and Stephen Farnsworth prisoners, burnt the saw and grist mills recently built, and killed a number of cattle. The prisoners were detained in Canada for some time, but afterwards returned to their homes.

"In the early part of the year 1746, the General Court of Massachusetts sent a party of men to Canada, for what purpose, is not now recollected, and perhaps was not generally known. On their return, they passed through Upper Ashuelot. On arriving in sight of the settlement, they fired their guns. This, of course, alarmed the inhabitants, and all who were out, and several were in the woods making sugar, hastened home. From some cause or other, suspicion was entertained, that a party of Indians had followed the returning whites; and for several days the settlers were more vigilant, and more circumspect in their movements; seldom leaving the fort, except to look after their cattle, which were in the barns, and at the stacks, in the vicinity."

(Annals, page 18.)

The fort here was manned with a few soldiers and armed inhabitants, and commanded by Capt. William Symes (or Simes), of the Massachusetts troops.

"Early in the morning of the 23d of April, Ephraim Dorman left the fort to search for his cow. He went northwardly, along the borders of what was then a hideous and almost impervious swamp, lying East of the fort, until he arrived near to the place where the turnpike now is. Looking into the swamp, he perceived several Indians lurking in the bushes. He immediately gave the alarm, by crying 'Indians! Indians!' and ran towards the fort. Two, who were concealed in the bushes, between him and the fort, sprang forward, aimed their pieces at him, and fired, but neither hit him. They then, throwing away their arms, advanced towards him; one he knocked down by a blow, which deprived him of his senses; the other he seized, and, being a strong man, and able wrestler, tried his strength and skill, in his favorite mode of 'trip and twitch.' He tore his antagonist's blanket from his shoulders, leaving him nearly naked. He then seized him by the arms and

body, but as he was painted and greased, he slipped from his grasp. After a short struggle, Dorman quitted him, ran towards the fort and reached it in safety.

"When the alarm was given, the greater part of the inhabitants were in the fort; but some had just left it, to attend to their cattle. Capt. Simms, the commander, as was the custom every morning before prayers, was reading a chapter in the bible. He immediately exclaimed, 'rush out, and assist those who are out to get in.' Most of the men immediately rushed out, and each ran where his interest or affections led him; the remainder chose positions in the fort, from which they could fire on the enemy

"Those who were out, and within hearing, instantly started for the fort; and the Indians, from every direction, rushed into the street, filling the air with their usual horrid yell. Mrs. M'Kenny[1] had gone to a barn, near where Miss Fiske's house now stands, to milk her cow. She was aged and corpulent, and could only walk slowly. When she was within a few rods of the fort, a naked Indian, probably the one with whom Dorman had been wrestling, darted from the bushes on the East side of the street, ran up to her, stabbed her in the back, and crossed to the other side. She continued walking, in the same steady pace as before, until she had nearly reached the gate of the fort, when the blood gushed from her mouth, and she fell and expired. John Bullard was at his barn, below Dr. Adams's; he ran towards the fort, but the instant he arrived at the gate, he received a shot in his back. He fell, was carried in, and expired in a few hours. Mrs. Clark was at a barn, near the Todd house, about fifty rods distant. Leaving it, she espied an Indian near her, who threw away his gun, and advanced to make her prisoner. She gathered her clothes around her waist, and started for the fort. The Indian pursued; the woman, animated by cheers from her friends, outran her pursuer, who skulked back for his gun. Nathan Blake was at his barn, near where his son's house now stands. Hearing the cry of Indians, and presuming his barn would be burnt, he determined that his cattle should not be burnt with it. Throwing open his stable door, he let them loose, and presuming his retreat to the fort was cut off, went out at a back door, intending to place himself in ambush at the only place where the river could be crossed. He had gone but a few steps, when he was hailed by a party of Indians, concealed in a shop between him and the street. Looking back, he perceived several guns pointed at

[1] In a record of births and deaths, kept by Mr. Ichabod Fisher, this name is spelt *Maccaney*.

him, and at this instant several Indians started up from their places of concealment near him, upon which, feeling himself in their power, he gave himself up. They shook hands with him, and to the remark he made, that he had not yet breakfasted, they smilingly replied, that 'it must be a poor Englishman, who could not go to Canada without his breakfast.' Passing a cord around his arms above the elbows, and fastening them close to his body, they gave him to the care of one of the party, who conducted him to the woods.

"The number of Indians belonging to the party, was supposed to be about 100. They came near the fort, on every side, and fired whenever they supposed their shot would be effectual. They, however, neither killed nor wounded any one. The whites fired whenever an Indian presented himself, and several of them were seen to fall. Before noon, the savages ceased firing, but they remained several days in the vicinity.

"The guns first fired were heard at the fort in Swanzey, the commander of which immediately sent an express to Winchester, with information that the Indians had made an attack upon Upper Ashuelot. From Winchester an express was sent to the next post, and so on from post to post to Northampton, where Col. Pomeroy commanded. Collecting all the troops, and militia there, and pressing all the horses in the place, he instantly, at their head, set out for Upper Ashuelot, and on his way added to his number all the disposable force in the intermediate settlements. In little more than 48 hours from the time the express started from Swanzey, he, with 400 or 500 men, arrived at Upper Ashuelot, the distance down and back, being, at least, ninety miles. The arrival, so soon, of this relief, was as unexpected, as it was gratifying to the settlers. The next morning, Pomeroy sent out his men to scour the woods in search of Blake. While these were absent, the Indians again showed themselves on the meadow, south-east of the fort, where they killed a number of cattle. To recall the troops an alarm was fired, but was not heard. In the afternoon, they returned unsuccessful, and that evening Mr. Bullard and Mrs. M'Kenny were buried. The next morning, they found the track of the Indians, and followed it, until they came to the place of their encampment at night. This was East of Beech Hill, not far from the present residence of Capt. Chapman. It appearing that they dispersed, when departing from this place, they were pursued no farther. Col. Pomeroy, on his way back to the fort, found that a house, belonging to a Mr. Heaton, and standing near the place where his son's house

now stands, had been burnt. Among the ashes, they discovered human bones, and the leg of an Indian, unconsumed. As it is known to have been the custom of the Indians to take the most effectual means in their power to conceal the amount of their loss, they had doubtless placed in this house, before they set it on fire, the bodies of such of their party as had been killed, which they had not otherwise concealed. The number, as near as could be ascertained, was nine, and one or two were burnt in the barn of Mr. Blake.

"The next day, inquiry was made for Mark Ferry, the hermit. As he did not reside among them, and had never performed the duties of relation, friend or companion to any of the settlers, they felt little solicitude for his fate; but Col. Pomeroy, offering to send a party of men, they agreed to send a pilot to the place where they supposed he might be found. This was Ferry meadow, on the stream called Ferry brook, within the present limits of Sullivan, whither he had repaired, as to a place of safety, when driven by the flood from his cave on Bullard's Island. They found his horse confined under the shelter of the root of a fallen tree, and looking further, espied him perched high upon the limb of a large tree, mending his clothes. His personal appearance indicated that he had not received the benefit of shaving, nor ablution, for months. They compelled him to descend, brought him to the fort, led him to the officers' quarters, and, with mock formality, introduced him to all the officers and gentlemen of the party.

"Apprehending no farther danger to the settlers, Col. Pomeroy and his men returned to their homes.

"In the early part of May, the same, or another party of Indians, hovered about the settlement, watching for an opportunity to make prisoners, and to plunder. For several successive nights, the watch imagined that they heard some person walking around the fort. When it came to the turn of young M'Kenny, whose mother had been killed, to watch, he declared he should fire, on hearing the least noise without the fort. In the dead of night, he thought he heard some person at the picket gate, endeavoring to ascertain its strength. Having loaded his gun, as was usual among the first settlers of the country, with two balls and several buck shot, he fired through the gate, which was made of thin boards. In the morning blood was discovered on the spot, and also a number of beads, supposed to have been cut, by the shot, from the wampum of the Indian."

(Annals, pages 19-22.)

The Indians appeared also at other settlements. On the 27th of April a garrisoned house at Hopkinton was surprised, and eight persons were carried away captives. At No. 4, early in the evening of the 2d of May, the women went out to milk the cows, as was the custom in those days, guarded by several soldiers under Major Josiah Willard, son of Col. Willard, the commander at Fort Dummer. Eight Indians were concealed in the barn, and as the party approached they fired, killing Seth Putnam. The Indians sprang out to secure his scalp, were met by a volley from the guard, and two of the Indians were mortally wounded. The Indians seized their dying companions and made a hasty retreat. The same day two men were killed and one captured at Contoocook. On the 6th of May, at Lower Ashuelot, Deacon Timothy Brown and Robert Maffett were captured and taken to Canada but they afterwards returned.

As the alarm increased Massachusetts sent more troops to guard the settlers. Capt. Daniel Paine was sent to No. 4 with a troop of horse to reinforce Capt. Stevens and to patrol the country, arriving on the 24th of May, while the enemy in large numbers were lying in ambush near the fort. Some of his men had a curiosity to see the place where Putnam was killed, and went out with some of the inhabitants to view the spot. They were warned of the danger by Capt. Stevens, but persisted in going. As they started out, the Indians rose and fired, and attempted to get between the party and the fort. But Capt. Stevens rushed out with his men, and a sharp fight ensued in which five white men were killed and about the same number of the Indians. Ensign Obadiah Sartwell was captured and taken to Canada. The Indians retreated, leaving arms, packs and blankets behind them.

At this time John Hawks of Deerfield, one of the proprietors of Upper Ashuelot, who assisted in laying out and surveying the lots, was a sergeant in command of Fort Massachusetts (at North Adams) with twenty men. On the 9th of May he and John Mighills were out a short distance from the fort. "Mighills was mounted, and Hawks got up behind to cross

Hoosac river. He was in the act of dismounting, when two Indians appeared; one fired upon them, wounding both. Mighills escaped to the fort, but Hawks fell to the ground, with a shot in his left arm. Both Indians dropped their guns, and rushed towards him for his scalp; but Hawks was not ready to part with that useful appendage. He rallied instantly, and resting his gun on his wounded arm, covered the approaching foe. Both dodged; one down a bank, the other behind a tree, from which shelter neither dared venture to reach the loaded gun which one Indian had dropped, in an exposed place. Hawks kept them both at bay until they called for quarter, as it afterwards appeared, which the wounded man unfortunately did not understand. Finding, after a while, that Hawks had the best of the game, both ran off in different directions. The spirit shown by Hawks on this occasion earned him the confidence of his officers and the respect of his enemies, and neither had cause to change their sentiments at his next appearance before the public." (History of Deerfield, vol. 1, page 542.)

A few days later Capt. Ephraim Brown, of Sudbury, Mass., was sent to No. 4 with an additional company of troops. On the 19th of June, Captains Stevens and Brown, with about fifty men, went out to look after the horses of the troopers and others which had been turned into the meadow to graze. Their dogs warned them of Indians near, and they discovered an ambush of about 150 of the enemy. The savages started up, and the soldiers gave them the first fire and followed it up with a brisk fusilade, killing and wounding many. Finding themselves at disadvantage, as they were on higher ground and as they shot over and hit but few of the whites, the Indians retreated into a swamp, leaving behind them arms, packs, blankets, etc., which "sold for 40 pounds old tenor. This was reckoned a great booty from such beggarly enemies." But the troops were glad to escape from such numbers, and retired into their fort.

In July two men were killed, two wounded and two captured at Fort Bridgman. During the same month Capt. Eleazer Melvin was sent with a company of fifty rangers

to scout in the Connecticut valley, with headquarters at Northfield.

A company of scouts under Capt. Jeremiah Clough, of Canterbury, patrolled the borders of Lake Winnepesaukee and the Pemigewasset river, and others under Captains Drake and Todd were kept active in the eastern part of the province.

On the 3d of July, 1746, Col. Willard went from Fort Dummer to Hinsdell's mills with a team and twenty men to grind corn. After the guard had been set they discovered Indians in ambush, and opened fire. Col. Willard shouted to his men to rush at them. His defiant manner terrified the Indians and they fled, leaving behind them what the Indian never parted with if he could avoid it—their packs of provisions. Only one soldier was wounded.

Sometime in July Capt. Joseph How of Marlboro, Mass., was sent to No. 4 with his troop of thirty-eight horsemen. Dogs played an important part in the strife of the pioneers with the Indians. Their instincts led them to distrust and hate the savages, their peculiar movements and suggestive growl gave warning of the approach of the stealthy foe, and they were often used to follow the Indian trail.

On the 3d of August these faithful companions gave warning to the inhabitants of No. 4 that Indians were near. To ascertain the facts, Capt. Stevens sent out a scouting party. Immediately upon leaving the fort they were fired upon and Ebenezer Philips was killed. The Indians then advanced in large numbers and laid siege to the fort. They burned buildings and killed cattle, while the soldiers from behind their works watched their opportunity to bring down a redskin. At the end of two days the Indians withdrew and went down the river, committing outrages at several places. About thirty of them waylaid a party in the road at Winchester. As six men were passing along they fired on them, killing Joseph Rawson and wounding Amasa Wright. They also mortally wounded young Benjamin Wright, at Northfield. On the 5th, Captain Stevens with sixty men followed them to Great Meadows, where he remained two days to

guard the settlers while they reaped their grain. Returning to No. 4 on the 8th, he found that the remainder of the cattle, horses and most of the hogs had been killed during his absence.

When the report of this attack on No. 4 reached Boston, Gov. Shirley sent a company of fresh troops, mounted, under Capt. Josiah Brown, to relieve Capt. Ephraim Brown and his company; and soon afterwards sent Capt. Winchester with another troop of horse, each of the companies taking all the provisions they could carry, for the relief of the garrison.

It was by those troops, scouting and holding the advanced posts, that Upper Ashuelot was protected. But cavalry was not adapted to warfare against the Indians in those dense forests, and late in the fall they were recalled to Massachusetts.

During the same months there were raids in the central and eastern parts of the province. At Rochester five men were killed and two captured, and two were captured at Contoocook. At Penacook, on the 11th of August, Lieut. Jonathan Bradley and seven men were ambushed about one mile west of the fort. The lieutenant, his brother Samuel and three others were killed, two were captured, and one escaped.

Sergt. John Hawks was still in command of Fort Massachusetts. On the 20th of August about 750 French and Indians under Gen. Rigaud de Vaudreuil made a furious attack on the fort. Hawks and his men defended the post bravely and kept the enemy at bay for twenty-eight hours in spite of their numbers. The French general then asked for a parley, and offered protection if they would surrender. Finding that their ammunition was nearly expended and that several of the men were sick, they surrendered, prisoners of war to the French. Thirty-two men, women and children were taken to Canada, where several of them died. So vigorous and determined had been the defence that nearly fifty of the enemy had been killed or mortally wounded. Few were slightly wounded, for the besieged were sparing of their ammunition and shot to kill. Hawks lost but one man. We

shall have more to relate of this daring soldier and pioneer of Upper Ashuelot farther on. The fort was burned (but afterwards rebuilt), and about one hundred and fifty buildings of the Dutch settlers on the Hoosack river were destroyed on the retreat of the enemy towards Canada. After this there was quiet in the Connecticut valley for the rest of the year.

Finding the defence of the frontiers costly and ineffectual, Massachusetts withdrew her soldiers from all the posts in the autumn of that year, except Fort Dummer. Four families remained in Shattuck's fort in Hinsdale. On the 30th of March a party of thirty to forty Indians made an attack and attempted to burn the fort. They succeeded in setting fire to the south end, but the wind suddenly changed and the fort was saved. Struck with superstitious fear at this incident the savages abandoned the attempt and withdrew.

According to the records the proprietors held their last meeting in Upper Ashuelot previous to abandoning the place on the 19th of March, 1747—David Nims, moderator. "Upon *ye 1st article voted* The sum of Forty Pounds Lawful Money of New England, or one Hundred and Sixty pounds old Tenor for ye Rev^d^ Mr. Bacon's support for ye Present year, w^c^ will be out October ye 18th, 1747, or this Date." Certain sums were voted to those who had furnished labor and materials for finishing the meetinghouse. No record is found of any meeting of the proprietors after this date until 1753, although there is evidence that some of them returned as early as 1749.

Wise counsels prevailed on the Massachusetts legislature to resume their defence of the settlements in the Connecticut valley, and on the opening of spring, 1747, a company of forty men under Lieut. Bradstreet was sent to Fort Dummer, and a few soldiers were sent to each of the smaller posts along the frontier.

Towards the last of March, Capt. Phineas Stevens was sent to No. 4 with his company of thirty rangers. He found the fort in good condition and the cabins still standing. His arrival was timely, for, on the 4th of April, the faithful dogs again gave warning that the enemy was

near. A force of several hundred French and Indians under Gen. Debeline lay in ambush near the fort. Being discovered they began an attack, set fire to the buildings and fences on all sides, and shot flaming arrows into the fort in a determined effort to burn it. Capt. Stevens had trenches opened under the walls to allow his men to go through and extinguish the flames. The fire from the fences and buildings did not reach the fort, and the arrows were harmless. The enemy continued the attack for two days, with hideous shouts and yells, and then asked for a cessation of the fight and a parley. The next morning, Gen. Debeline came forward with sixty men under a flag of truce, and Capt. Stevens met him with twenty men. Debeline proposed a surrender of the fort, which Stevens refused. They returned to their commands and the fight was kept up all that day. On the morning of the fourth day, another parley was held, and the enemy made urgent appeals for provisions to be sold to them. The poor wretches were starving, and were fighting with desperation to obtain food. Their request was very properly refused, and with some parting shots they withdrew. Capt. Stevens and his thirty men had had no rest or sleep during all this time, and, although they were under a terrific fire, all behaved with great gallantry. Their loss was but two men wounded, so well did their works protect them. An express was sent to Boston, and the news caused great rejoicing. Commodore Sir Charles Knowles, the naval officer in command there, was so pleased that he gave Capt. Stevens an elegant sword in token of appreciation of his gallantry. In return, when the place was chartered by New Hampshire in 1753 it was named Charlestown in honor of Sir Charles.[1]

It was at this time that Upper Ashuelot was abandoned and the inhabitants returned to their former homes, or sought safety in towns less exposed to attack. And Lower Ashuelot and Winchester were abandoned at the same time. We have seen that a few days previous, on the 19th of March, the proprietors had held a meeting in

[1] Belknap's History of New Hampshire, vol. 2, page 251; Barstow's History of New Hampshire, page 184.

the fort, passed the usual votes in town affairs, and provided for the salary of their minister, whose year was to expire in October—all indicating that at that time they had no intention of leaving. But a few days were sufficient to change the whole aspect of affairs. The fight at No. 4 had been a very important one. Debeline had a large force for those times—Whiton puts the number at 400, and some writers much higher than that—while Stevens had but thirty. The combined forces of all the posts in the Connecticut valley north of Deerfield did not exceed 100 men; and there was no movable force to meet this active body of French and Indians.

After Debeline's repulse at No. 4, he divided his followers and sent them in small parties to attack other settlements. At Northfield they killed and scalped Nathaniel Dickinson and Asahel Burt. Other bodies of the enemy were also operating in western Massachusetts, and in eastern New Hampshire attacks were made at Rochester, Penacook, Suncook and other places in that part of the province. It was a time of general alarm.

"The inhabitants remained in the fort until March, or April, 1747. About this time they passed an informal vote ['on the common, in the haste of their departure'] releasing Mr. Bacon, their minister, from all his obligations to them, and resolved to abandon the settlement, which resolution was immediately executed. Soon after, a party of Indians[1] visited the place, and burnt all the buildings, except the mill on Beaver brook, and the house in which the miller had resided."

(Annals, page 22.)

"'There were Thirty-one Dwelling houses * * * Sundry barns and a Fort,' a meetinghouse, a saw mill and a grist mill. All were burned except four houses, one barn and the mills. And such horses as they could not take with them and all the cattle, sheep and swine were killed."

(State Papers, vol. 12, page 310.)

Another reason for leaving the place was that for two years they had been able to raise but very little on their land from fear of being attacked by the Indians, and they must have been short of provisions, with no likelihood of

[1] "Doolittle's Narrative" says that when repulsed at Shattuck's the Indians burned on their retreat the deserted settlements at Winchester, Hinsdale and Upper and Lower Ashuelot.

raising anything in the season approaching. The terror-stricken inhabitants therefore gathered up the few valuables they possessed, packed such as were portable on horses or took them on their persons, buried some, left the remainder with their cabins, to be destroyed by the savages, and turned their steps in haste and sadness away from those homes they had so recently established, where they had hoped to spend many years of happiness and prosperity.

They fled to Fort Dummer, where Capt. Josiah Willard, Jr.,[1] had a small company of soldiers, under his father, Col. Josiah Willard, commander of the post. The women and children, and most of the men, continued their journey to the lower towns, but several of the men from Upper Ashuelot, and some from the lower township, joined Capt. Willard's company to fight the Indians. The company then numbered twenty-six men besides the captain. That company was stationed at "Ashuelott," June 21, and remained, with additions in 1748 and reductions in 1749, until Nov. 27, 1749; serving part of the time at Fort Dummer. Capt. Melvin's company of rangers at Northfield was increased to sixty men, and he remained in the Connecticut valley through that season, scouting the country and doing good service.

Raids from the enemy were less frequent during the summer of 1747, probably for the reason that all the inhabitants had been driven from these upper towns, yet the settlers of the lower towns were never free from the dread of an attack from prowling savages. In this war the Indians killed fewer of those who fell into their hands than formerly. The bounties and redemption money paid for captives induced them to spare their lives.

"Roll of Capt. Josiah Willard jr's company at Ashuelott, June 21, 1747, to Feb. 10, 1748.

Josiah Willard, captain.	Asahel Graves
William Syms (Sims) lieutenant.	Benoni Right (Wright)
Elias Alexander, serg't.	Hezekiah Elmer
Jeremiah Hall,* clerk.	James Jewel
William Smeed,* corp.	Jethro Wheeler

[1] Capt. Willard was relieved in July, 1749, by Capt. John Catlin, was promoted to lieutenant colonel and succeeded his father, who died in 1750, in command of Fort Dummer.

David Nyms* (Nims) centinel.
Samuel Hills
Nathaniel Hills
Nathan Fairbanks*
Thomas Cresson
Thomas Cresson jr.
James Heaton
Samuel Heaton
William Heaton
James Johnson
Joseph Alexander
Benj. Melvin
Jeremiah Hall jr.*
Ebenezer Day*
Thomas Taylor
William Grimes
Titus Belding."

(Massachusetts Archives.)

Those marked with a * were from Upper Ashuelot; Joseph Richardson, also from this place, joined the company afterwards and was killed in a fight with the Indians in 1748; Samuel Hall, Nathaniel Fairbanks and Peter "Hawood" (Hayward), afterwards citizens of Keene, joined the company later; and Daniel Maccany (McKeeny or McKenny), of Upper Ashuelot, joined Capt. Hobbs' company at No. 4.

"It has already been mentioned, that Mr. Blake, when captured, was pinioned, and conducted by an Indian into the woods. After travelling about two miles, they came to a small stony brook.[1] The Indian stooped to drink, and as Blake's hands were not confined, he thought he could easily take up a stone and beat out his brains. He silently prayed for direction; and his next thought was, that he should always regret that he had killed an Indian in that situation and he refrained.

"No particulars of his journey to Canada have been obtained, except that he passed by Charlestown. At Montreal, he, with another prisoner of the name of Warren, was compelled to run the gauntlet. Warren, receiving a blow in the face, knocked down the Indian who gave it; upon which, he was assaulted by several, who beat him unmercifully, making him a cripple for life. Blake, exhibiting more patience and fortitude, received no considerable injury. He was then conducted to Quebec, and thence to an Indian village several miles North of that place, called Conissadawga.[2] He was a strong, athletic man, and possessed many qualities which procured him the respect of the savages. He could run with great speed, and in all the trials to which he was put, and they were many and severe, he beat every antagonist.

[1] "The farm of my grandfather, Henry Ellis, was the first on the right hand beyond the four corners on the Surry road, about half a mile beyond the stone bridge. About forty rods east of the buildings a good spring flows down to the river. There was where Nathan Blake had the chance to knock out the brains of the Indian, but prudently desisted."—Samuel P. Ellis, born and brought up on that farm.

[2] In Jefferson's Notes on Virginia, "Conissadawga" occurs as the name of a Canadian tribe of Indians.

"Not long after his arrival at the village, the tribe lost a chief by sickness. As soon as his decease was made known, the women repaired to his wigwam, and with tears, sobs, and clamorous lamentations, mourned his death. The funeral ceremonies performed, the men sought Blake, dressed him in the Indian costume, and invested him with all the authority and privileges of the deceased, as one of the chiefs of the tribe, and as husband of the widow. In the family to which he now stood in the relation of father, there were, as he has often remarked, several daughters of uncommon beauty

"Yet, notwithstanding this good fortune, he still had difficulties to encounter. The tribe was divided into two parties, his friends and his enemies. The former consisted of the great mass of the tribe, who respected him for qualities, to which, they had not equal pretensions; the latter, of those who were envious of his success, and had been worsted in their contests with him. These, to humble his pride, sent far into the northern wilderness, and procured a celebrated Indian runner, to run against him. At the time assigned, the whole tribe assembled to witness the race; and a Frenchman, from Quebec, happened to be present. Perceiving the excitement among them, he advised Blake to permit himself to be beaten, intimating that fatal consequences might ensue, if he did not. The race was run, and Blake, as advised by the Frenchman, permitted his antagonist to reach the goal, a moment before he did. He persisted, however, after his return from captivity, in declaring that he might have beaten him if he had tried. The event of the race restored harmony to the tribe, and Blake was permitted to live in peace.

"But, remembering the family he had left, he felt anxious to return to his home. After much intercession, the tribe proposed, that, if he would build a house, like those of the English, he should be permitted to go to Quebec. Presuming, that, when there, he could more easily obtain his liberty, he gladly acceded to the proposition. With such tools as the Indians possessed, he prepared the necessary timber, splitting the boards from the tree, and soon completed his task. He then went to Quebec, and gave himself up to the French. He had been there but a short time, when his Indian wife came in a canoe to reclaim him. He refused to return; but she soliciting and even demanding it, he declared to her, that, if he should be compelled to set out with her, he would overturn the canoe, and drown her; upon which, she concluded to return without him. In the fall, the French commandant gave Blake his election to pass the winter, as a laborer, with a farmer, in the

vicinity of Quebec, or be confined in the common gaol. He chose the latter, and had no reason to regret his choice, as he had a comfortable room, and sufficient rations assigned him. He remained in confinement until spring, when his liberation was procured in the manner which will now be related." (Annals, pages 23-4.)

On the 16th of October, Col. Josiah Willard, commander at Fort Dummer, Capt. Ebenezer Alexander[1] of Northfield, and "Dr. Hall" (Jeremiah), of Upper Ashuelot, started from Fort Dummer to go to Northfield. Near the Winchester line, a little south of the Ashuelot river, they met some cattle running as if being driven off. Their suspicions were aroused, and Capt. Alexander rode on a little in advance to reconnoitre. Suddenly he came upon a man in French uniform, who dodged behind a tree, but at the same instant the captain fired and shot him in the breast. He fell, but immediately rose and came forward, asking in French for quarter. But none of the party understood his language, and supposing him to be dying, and that the shot would bring all his party upon them, they took his papers from him, left him on the bank of the river and hurried on to Northfield.

Among the papers was his commission, (still in possession of Capt. Alexander's descendants) dated at Montreal, Sept. 27 (16, O. S.), 1747. This showed that he was a cadet from Canada in command of forty savages, sent out by Bouberthelat, commander at Montreal, to make war upon the English settlements. His name was Pierre Raimbault St. Blein. He was sometimes called Sieur Simblin. Hearing the shot, his party hastened to him and carried him a short distance, but believing, as did the other party, that their leader was dying, and fearing an attack, they abandoned him and hastened back to Canada, where they reported that he was killed by a party of twenty horsemen.

But the Frenchman, though deserted by both friends and foes, did not die. He dressed and bound up his wound as well as he could, lived on his few rations and what the woods afforded, and four days later appeared at

[1] The same Deacon Alexander who had piloted the first party of proprietors to Upper Ashuelot in 1734.

Northfield, five miles distant, and surrendered to Capt. Alexander, the first man he met, and the one who had shot him. He was kindly treated and placed under the care of Rev. Benjamin Doolittle,[1] who was not only the minister of the settlement, but surgeon and physician as well. Under his treatment the young man soon recovered, and in less than four weeks was able to be sent to Boston.

On the 14th of November, "Chevalier de Longueil" with forty Canadians and Indians surprised twelve men near No. 4, killed Nathaniel Gould and Thomas Goodale, wounded Oliver Avery, and took John Anderson prisoner. From his captive, Longueil learned that the young French officer was alive and had been sent to Boston. This fact was reported to the governor at Quebec on the 3d of December.

Raimbault was a person of good family, courteous and gentlemanly, was treated with kindness and consideration by Gov. Shirley, and made quite a sensation among the society women of Boston. But he had no desire to remain a prisoner, and soon negotiated with the governor for an exchange. Being an officer, he agreed to obtain the consent of the governor of Canada to the release of two English prisoners for himself.

Sergt. John Hawks had now reached Boston on his return from captivity He was regarded as something of a hero from his gallant defence of Fort Massachusetts and was soon after promoted to the rank of lieutenant. The governor appointed Hawks, with Mathew Clesson and Samuel Taylor of Deerfield as assistants, to take the prisoner to Canada and bring back two English captives in exchange.

Hawks was a personal friend of Blake, having been well acquainted with him here in the early days of the settlement, when they worked together in the same surveying party, laying out divisions of land. He also had a nephew in captivity—young Samuel Allen of Deerfield—and it was agreed that Blake and Allen should be the two prisoners to be exchanged for Raimbault.

[1] The same who presided over the council that ordained Rev. Mr. Bacon and established the church here in 1738; and author of "Doolittle's Narrative" from which this story is largely taken.

The prisoner was sent to Deerfield, and the four men were there fitted out with supplies; and on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 1748, they started on snowshoes with their provisions on their backs—the three men well armed and equipped.

The Annals say: "Considering it possible that the French Governor might refuse to ratify the engagement of the Lieutenant, Mrs. Blake furnished Hawks with funds to redeem her husband." It is probable that she was then at Wrentham, near Boston, the home of the Blakes, where she would be likely to go when their new home was abandoned, and that Hawks saw her there before starting for Deerfield.

On the 10th, they reached No. 4, and the next day marched up Black river to what is now Cavendish. All that region was then a dense wilderness, and they encamped that night on a hill known ever since as Hawks's mountain. The snow was deep, the weather cold, and their bivouac each night was in the dry snow, where a fire could be made with the dead branches of trees.

At No. 4, the suggestion was made that a party should go with them one day's march to assist in carrying their luggage, but that post had been neglected by the Massachusetts officials in the distribution of snowshoes, and the men could not go. This defect in the outfit of the fort was noticed by St. Blein, without doubt, for on the very day of the arrival of Hawks and his party at Montreal, Galissoniere, then governor of Canada, sent out a French cadet with seventeen Indians to our frontier. On the 15th of March, they came upon eight men who were getting wood about sixty rods from the fort at No. 4, without snowshoes, and could not escape. They killed Charles Stevens, wounded Nathan Andrews and captured Eleazur Priest. They then went leisurely away, as they could not be pursued, and reached Montreal, March 29, with one prisoner and one scalp.

Pursuing his journey, Lieut. Hawks and his party crossed the mountains at Mount Holly, followed down Otter creek more than twenty miles, then turned westward and struck a stream which took them to Lake Champlain opposite Ticonderoga—following the Indian

trail from Canada to the English settlement in the Connecticut valley—thence on the ice of the lake and the river Sorel. Carrying a white flag, they reached Montreal on the 27th of February. Application was immediately made for the exchange of two prisoners in place of St. Blein. Under the same date, Feb. 27, Count de Galissoniere makes this record:

"Sieur Simblin, military cadet, who was wounded at the close of October last, within four leagues of the fort of Northfield, and taken to Boston, arrived at Montreal in company with three Englishmen sent with him by Mr. Shirley. We have them, well treated and closely watched. They ask to take back two prisoners, men of family, who are here. We shall see to their departure, if it be proper to release these two men."

Young Allen was found among the Indians, but he had become so infatuated with Indian life in his eighteen months of captivity that he preferred it, and was unwilling to return home. Upon meeting his uncle, Lieut. Hawks, who had sought this mission chiefly for the purpose of releasing him, he recognized him but kept aloof and declined to talk in English. He was finally persuaded, partly by threats and promises, to return home. He lived to old age, but always asserted his preference for the Indian mode of life.

Pursuing their journey to Quebec to find Blake, the prisoner conducted the party to the house of his father, a wealthy old gentleman living near the city. St. Blein was received with great rejoicing by his relatives, who had believed the report of his death to be true, and his escort was most hospitably entertained.

At Quebec, Blake was found in prison, and Hawks applied for his release in accordance with the agreement made with Raimbault. The English version is that at first the governor refused to ratify that agreement, that Hawks persisted, represented Mrs. Blake's situation and appealed to his feelings as a man, and finally offered a ransom—that the governor at last relented and told him to take the prisoner and keep his money

The French account of the exchange is: "April 13, 1748, the General (Galissoniere) sends back from Montreal

the three persons who came with a cartel on the 27th of February. They were conducted to the frontier by Sieur de Simblin, whom they brought back. We found no difficulty in surrendering to them the two prisoners whom they asked of us on arriving."

Receiving his order for the exchange, and "expressing his gratitude, Hawks hastened to the prison, and gave to Blake the glad tidings of his release. On their way to New-England, the party again stopped at the house of old Raimbout. The neighbors were invited; a sumptuous feast was prepared; 'wine,' to use the language of Blake, 'was as plenty as water;' the evening, and the night, were spent in dancing; the happy father and mother opening the ball, and displaying all the liveliness of youth. Quebec, it should be remembered, had then been settled nearly a century and a half, and was far in advance of all the English colonies in refinement of manners. To the rough and sedate Englishmen, who had seldom been out of the woods, the whole scene was novel, and excited emotions, to which they had not been accustomed."

(Annals, page 27.)

It was about the middle of April when the three envoys with the two exchanged captives left Montreal on their return. Ensign Obadiah Sartwell, who had been captured at No. 4, also came with them. As the war still continued and marauding parties were out on the frontier, and as some of young Allen's friends among the Indians had shown a disposition to rescue him from the party, St. Blein, with a guard of soldiers, was sent with them up Sorel river and Lake Champlain to the ridge of the Green mountains between Otter creek and Black river. There, on the 26th of April, he left the party and returned to Canada, although it had been understood that he would go with them for protection as far as No. 4. Upon bidding them farewell he advised them to hasten on and to avoid the regular trail, where they were liable to meet bands of hostile Indians.

That night they made no fire lest they should be discovered. April 27 they set out early and followed down Black river, and the next day struck the Connecticut and reached the fort at Great Falls about sunset. There they made a raft, finished it at 10 o'clock that night and started

down the river, arriving at Fort Dummer at 9 o'clock the next morning. The next day, the 30th, the party set out for Deerfield, on horseback, escorted by about twenty of their friends, and there was great rejoicing.

Nothing definite is known concerning the subsequent movements of Mr. Blake until we find him a citizen here again in 1750, but it is probable that he went directly on from Deerfield and joined his family at Wrentham.

The sufferings of the pioneers from Indian incursions in 1747 had been great, and New Hampshire still declining to provide for their protection, they again applied to Massachusetts. Upon those petitions and the representations of Col. Stoddard and others, in February, 1748, the general court of that province authorized the governor to reinforce the posts in the Connecticut valley. A bounty of five pounds was offered to men who would enlist for one year, and in some cases men were impressed. The forces at No. 4 and at Fort Massachusetts were increased to 100 effective men each. Capt. Phineas Stevens was reappointed to the command at No. 4, where he had remained through the winter with sixty men.

The company at the Ashuelots was increased to sixty-four men. Capt. Willard was a major in the militia, but accepted a commission as captain in these forces raised specially for defence. His lieutenant, William Sims, had been designated as captain in 1746, and was probably serving in the same way, as was often the case in those Indian wars. The term of enlistment for this year was eight months.

The roll of the company of Capt. Josiah Willard, Jr., at the two Ashuelots, Feb. 10 to Oct. 26, 1748, follows:

"Capt. Josiah Willard	Jos. Richardson
Lieut. William Syms	William Hunt
Serg't. Thomas Taylor	Thomas Thoyets
Serg't. William Smeed	John Evans
Clerk Jeremiah Hall	James Burt
Corp. Thomas Crisson	Jeremiah Butler
Corp. Benoni Wright	Robert Tyler
Timothy Fletcher	Samuel Hall
John Ellis	William Hill
Wm. Bickford	James Billing
Reuben Walker	Simeon Green

Jona. French
Daniel How jr.
Eben[r] Fletcher
Robert Ewers
John Edgehill
John Robert
Aaron Ward
John Frost
Benj. Barrett
Sam[l] Haslington
Henry Chandler
Thomas Crisson jr.
Nath[l] Fairbanks
Jethro Wheeler
James Jewell
Hezekiah Elmer
Samuel Hill
David Nims
David Bacon
W[m] Blanchard
Mathew Wyman
Nathaniel Hills
Asahel Graves
Benj. Nichols
Thomas Robbins
Josiah Crosby
Joseph Barron
W[m] Livingston
Benj. Hoagg
Henry Stevens
Joel Johnson
Elijah Holton
James Holton
Isaac Rice
James Eaton
John Scott
Andrew Allard
Eliph. Corbin
John Henry
Benjamin Osgood
Jona. Lawrence jr.
John Pullard."

(Massachusetts Archives.)

St. Blein, having become familiar with this region, continued his operations in the Connecticut valley. May 21, Galissoniere writes: "Fifteen Abenaquis have been fitted out for a war party. They are commanded by Sieur Simblin who has only just returned from escorting the English cartels. Sieur Duplessis Fabert, Ensign of foot, with fifteen Canadians and thirty three Indians" were also sent out from Montreal by the governor on the same day.

On the 16th of June, twelve men of Capt. Willard's company of Upper Ashuelot, and two of Capt. Hobbs's company of No. 4, on their way from Ashuelot to Fort Dummer via Hinsdell's fort, were ambushed on the east bank of the river opposite Broad brook, within a mile or two of the spot where St. Blein was wounded the year before. Three of the Upper Ashuelot company, Joseph Richardson, John Frost and Jonathan French, were killed and scalped, and seven of the squad were captured. Four escaped across the river to Fort Dummer, one of whom was wounded. The great gun of the fort was fired as an alarm, and Capt. Ebenezer Alexander started immediately from Northfield with a relief party of two lieutenants and

thirteen men, who found and buried the dead; but the Indians escaped. The enemy were Raimbault St. Blein, Sieur Duplessis Fabert and Sieur La Plante, who had combined their forces under the direction of St. Blein—the same who had escorted Lieut. Hawks and his party, from Montreal to the Green mountains at Mount Holly, only a few weeks before, with friendly protection. Of the seven captured, William Bickford was killed where the Indians encamped the first night. The others were stripped of their arms and most of their clothing the first night, and reached Canada towards the last of the month. Some were thrown into prison, and four of them were made to "run the gauntlet." They reached their homes during the autumn, greatly emaciated from abuse and starvation, and Benjamin Osgood died a few weeks later.

June 25, Gov. Galissoniere records: "The three different war parties commanded by Sieurs Duplessis Fabert, Simblin and La Plante, are returned to Montreal. These parties having united and made an attack on Northfield, brought in six English prisoners and five scalps."

Scouting having proved an effective method of opposing the enemy, Capt. Melvin started out from Northfield in May, 1748, with eighteen men to scour the country above, leaving the rest of his company to protect the settlement. He marched to Fort Dummer, spent one night at Great Meadows, and reached No. 4 on the 14th. There he was joined by Captains Stevens and Hobbs with sixty men. They started the next day, following the Indian trail up Black river and across the mountains to Otter creek. Stevens and Hobbs with their men went down the right bank of the creek, turned to the north, recrossed the mountains and returned to No. 4. Melvin with his eighteen men followed the left bank and proceeded nearly to Crown Point, when they were attacked by 150 Indians and made a hasty retreat. When near Fort Dummer they were again suddenly attacked by the Indians, who had stealthily followed them. Six were killed and the party scattered, but Melvin and the other twelve men reached the fort. The whole valley was aroused and a party went in pursuit and buried the dead, but could not overtake the Indians.

Col. Stoddard died in June and Col. Israel Williams of Hatfield succeeded him as commander of the frontier.

On the 24th, Captain Hobbs, second in command at No. 4, started with forty men to scout that country to the southwest, with orders to go as far as Fort Shirley in Heath. On the 26th, they halted about twelve miles west of Fort Dummer. A large force of Indians under a half-breed named Sackett, well known to the whites and to Hobbs himself, had followed them; but Hobbs was wary and had placed a sentinel in his rear. While at their lunch the sentinel gave the alarm. The Indians gave their war-whoop and rushed upon them, but Hobbs and his men were ready and met them with a fire that laid several of them low. Sackett could speak English and called out to Hobbs to surrender, threatening to kill every man. But Hobbs defied him, and the fight continued for four hours, when Sackett was wounded and the Indians retreated, carrying off their dead and wounded. Hobbs lost three men killed and four wounded. Two of the killed, Samuel Gunn and Ebenezer Mitchell, and Ralph Rice, wounded, were from the Ashuelot company, and Daniel "McKeeney," a citizen of Upper Ashuelot, had his thigh broken and was disabled for life. Hobbs and his men retired to Fort Dummer, which they reached the next day, having buried their dead and brought off their wounded.

Early in July, Sergt. Thomas Taylor,[1] of Capt. Willard's company at Upper Ashuelot, was sent with six men to Northfield to bring up ten men to supply the places of those who had been killed and captured on the 16th of June. On the 12th, Col. Willard, commander at Fort Dummer, reached Northfield on his way from Boston, intending to go on to the fort the next morning. An alarm of Indians seen near Dummer reached Northfield that night, and Capt. Ebenezer Alexander with an escort started with the colonel about noon on the 13th. Meeting a scout who reported no Indians seen, Capt. Alexander with most of his men returned to Northfield, but five or six on horseback escorted the colonel through to Dummer. As they

[1] Sergt. Thomas Taylor was of Deerfield, and married Thankful, sister of John Hawks and aunt of Mrs. David Nims. He was afterwards with Capt. Isaac Wyman at Fort Massachusetts.

passed the upper end of Merry's meadow, in what is now Hinsdale, some of the horses showed restiveness, as they usually did when Indians were near. It was afterwards learned that Raimbault and some Indians lay concealed within a few yards of that spot, but Raimbault restrained the savages, telling them that a much larger force would soon appear.

The next morning, Thursday, July 14, Sergt. Taylor, with his ten recruits and his six other soldiers, started from Northfield for Upper Ashuelot by the same route, the travelled path being on the east side of the river, via Fort Hinsdell to Dummer. He had heard the report that Indians were in the vicinity, and remembered the fate of the fourteen soldiers, mostly from his own company, only a month before. He therefore marched with advanced guards on each side of the path. He had passed Merry's meadow and was near the ford of the Connecticut and close upon its bank, when his right flank was attacked by concealed Indians. His men returned the fire, but Taylor reported that "Not less than 100 guns were fired before we could reload;" and they saw the whole line of their foes, front, flank and rear, closing in upon them.

As prisoners paid better than scalps, the enemy tried to induce Taylor and his men to surrender, but they fled to the bank of the river, where they continued the fight and did some execution. Two of the Indians were killed and several wounded. Two of Taylor's men were killed, and himself and ten others were taken prisoners. Four escaped, two across the river to Fort Dummer, and two to Hinsdale's fort. Two of the captured were wounded, and were killed and scalped about a mile from the place of the fight. The remaining nine prisoners were conducted up the east side of the river a few miles, to a place called "Catsbane" —in what is now Chesterfield—where they crossed the Connecticut and followed up West river over the spot of Melvin's disaster, thence across the mountains to Otter creek and down that stream to Crown Point, and thence to Canada; making on an average twenty miles a day Sergt. Taylor returned from captivity to his post at Upper Ashuelot on the 30th of September. Daniel Farmer, another

of the captured, had been wounded on the same spot in the fight of the 16th of June, had recovered, and was returning to duty in the squad of ten recruits; and five others of the Ashuelot company, Jonathan Lawrence, Daniel How, Jr., John Edgehill, Reuben Walker, John Henry, and two other men, all returned to duty. Daniel How, Jr., had been captured once before.

John Henry in his petition to the general court of Massachusetts for relief said: "Your petitioner had seven bullets through his clothes, but escaped into a thicket; when happening to see an Indian seize one of his fellow soldiers he ran up within a few feet of the Indian and shot him through the body; whereupon he was surrounded, and engaged the savages with his gun clubbed until it was broken in pieces, when he was taken and carried to Canada, where he remained two months and eighteen days, when he returned home." For killing the Indian he was barbarously treated, both on the march and while in captivity.

All the prisoners were sold to the French, who held them till the last of September, when there was a cessation of hostilities and they were allowed to return home. Sergt. Taylor also petitioned the general court for relief, and it was:

"Ordered, £100 be granted and paid to ye petitioner, to be equally divided between him and ye survivors; and ye further sum of 50 shillings be allowed ye petitioner for his bravery in ye action; also that he be allowed £7 for his expenses in travelling to Boston and attendance on ye Court; also that 26 shillings and 3 pence be allowed John Henry for his expenses, and 24 shillings to Daniel How jr for his expenses in this affair." Henry was of Concord, Mass. How and Henry went to Boston as witnesses.

This fight took place less than a mile below Fort Dummer, and upon the discharge of the first volley the "great gun" of the fort was fired, and expresses were sent to the more distant posts. Col. Williams immediately sent up a strong force from Hatfield, Deerfield and Northfield under Capt. Phineas Stevens, who happened to be at Deerfield at that time. With 129 men, he followed the enemy for several days, but could not overtake them in their rapid retreat of twenty miles a day.

Upon the urgent solicitations of commanding officers and others in the Connecticut valley, the governor of Massachusetts issued orders on the 18th of July to raise a sufficient force out of the militia for the protection of the frontiers.

We may well tender our grateful acknowledgments to old Massachusetts for all she did for the protection of this corner of New Hampshire during those perilous times. Not only did that province grant aid, but, in the poverty of the public treasury and delays in collecting taxes, private individuals and commanding and staff officers advanced large sums to defray public expenses, to be reimbursed later. At one time, Col. Williams, chief commissary of the frontier, had advanced 6,000 pounds and Col. Josiah Willard, subcommissary and commander at Fort Dummer, 10,000 pounds, of their own funds and what they could borrow on their own responsibility. They were reimbursed by the provincial government of Massachusetts.

New Hampshire had kept troops in the field and garrisons in the forts in the central and eastern parts of the province through the season of 1748. Capt. John Goffe, with two lieutenants, commanded two companies of scouts, one of thirty-two, the other of fifty-four men; Capt. Job Coleman one of forty-five men; and Capt. Moses Foster one of twenty-six men; but none were sent into the Connecticut valley. The battles of these towns had been fought by Massachusetts troops and the citizens themselves, at No. 4 and about Fort Dummer.

All through that season of 1748, while young Capt. Josiah Willard was here with his company, the charred and blackened remains of the meetinghouse and the thirty-one log cabins that had been the peaceful homes of the settlers prior to the war must have made the place a scene of desolation and sad recollections, particularly to those soldiers, inhabitants of the town, who had enlisted in the company and remained to aid in guarding their property and maintaining their rights.

Under date of August 19, 1748, Galissoniere reports that he has "ordered all hostilities to cease, and, so far as depends on him, will put a stop to all hostilities on

the part of our Indians." It was under this order that Sergt. Taylor and his men, and many others, were released.

A treaty of peace between England and France was signed at Aix La Chapelle, in October, but it was not proclaimed at Boston till the spring following, and on the frontiers not till still later; and the Indians continued to make occasional raids. On the 20th of June, 1749, they appeared again at No. 4, shot Ensign Obadiah Sartwell and captured Enos Stevens, a young son of Capt. Phineas. The lad was taken to Canada, but was soon released by the French commander and sent back by the way of Albany, reaching No. 4 in September. That was the last raid of the savages in the Connecticut valley for several years.

CHAPTER III.

THE RETURN OF THE SETTLERS AND THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARTER.

1749–1754.

Massachusetts discharged most of her troops, but in the unsettled state of affairs left a small force at Fort Dummer and another at No. 4 for the protection of the frontier; and "Capt. John Catlin of Deerfield had a company of 56 men, raised from the Middlesex and Worcester regiments, mustered July 13 (1749), discharged Oct. 12. This company was billeted one half the time at Northfield and one half the time at Keene. The allowance for billeting per man per week at Northfield was 8 shillings, at Keene, 10 shillings 7 pence 3 farthings, new tenor." (Massachusetts Archives.)

This record from the Massachusetts Archives makes it evident that some of the proprietors had returned to Upper Ashuelot in the spring or early summer of 1749, with their families, for soldiers could not be "billeted" without inhabitants upon whom to billet them. (John Kilburn, the first settler of Walpole, came there in 1749, which shows that the advance of pioneers had been resumed.) And this evidence is corroborated by the following documents copied from the New Hampshire State Papers, where twenty "Inhabitants of the upper Ashuelot"—and of "the Upper Township on Ashuelot River where we Dwell"—signed petitions dated here on the 11th of Feb., 1750, showing that they spent the winter of 1749-50 here; and to do that they must have been here in the summer of 1749 to rebuild the cabins in which to dwell:

"We whose Names are Hereunto Subscribed Inhabitants of the upper Ashuelot for a Long time Labour under many Great Difficulties for want of Town Priviledges we Do Therefore Hereby Constitute and Impower our Trusty friend Capt Jeremiah Hall to Represent our Difficulties to his Excellency the Governor of New Hampshire and to Any

HEATON HOUSE. BUILT ABOUT 1750. OLDEST HOUSE IN TOWN. NOW 500 MARLBORO STREET.

Others Concerned In that affair that we may be Incorporated Into a Town and Likewise we give power to him to Chuse a man to asist him In the affaires.

"Upper Ashuelot February ye 11th 1750.

"William Smeed	Jonathan Underwood	Michael medcalf jr
Ebenezer Nims	John Rogers	Oliver Medcalf
David Nims	Nathan Blake	Abijah medcalf
Ephraim Dorman	Ebenezer Day	Jabez Hill
Nathan Fairbanks	Gideon Ellis	David Foster
Joseph Elles	Michaell Medcalf	Amos Foster."

"We the Subscribers Do hereby Impower Capt Jeremiah Hall to Pertition In our behalf for the Upper Township on Ashuelot River where we Dwell to his Excellency the Governour of New Hampshire and all Concern'd in that affair In the same form that it was laid by the Massachusetts

"Upper Ashuelot Febry 11th 1750

"William Smeed	Ebenezer Day	David Foster
Ebenezer Nims	Gideon Ellis	Oliver medcalf
David Nims	Michael Medcalf	Michael medcalf jr
Ephraim Dorman	Jabez Hill	Abijah medcalf
Nathan Fairbanks	Jonathan Underwood	Samuel Hall
Joseph Elles	John Rogers	Jesse Hall
Nathan Blake	Elijah Dorman"	

"We whose Names are Hereunto Subscribed Being Propriators of the Upper Ashuelot Township so called Do hereby Impower Mr Benjamin Guild to joyne with Capt Jeremiah Hall in Petetioning His Exelency the Govoner of the Province of New Hamshire He observing the Instructions Given by others of the Propriators to the said Capt Hall

"Wrentham Febr 20th 1750.

"John Whiting	Asa Richardson	Abigail Guild
Daniel Haws	Sarah Greene	Robart Blak
Joseph Fisher	Joseph Richardson	Seth Heaton
Samuel Fisher	Daniell maceene	Elijah Blake
Benjamin Guild	William Hancock	Josiah Fisher for
Obediah Blake	Samuel Danils	the hares of
Ebenezer Daniels	Esther Messenger	Aaron Fisher
Nathaniel Ware	Jonathan Whiting	Nathan Bucknam
Hannah Dale	Jacob Bacon	
Abner Ellis	Nathll Fairbnks."	

(State Papers, vol. 12, pages 307-9.)

But no notice of those petitions was taken by the authorities of New Hampshire. In their estimation, the little settlements in the southwestern corner of the province were too far away, and it would cost too much to

protect them if they were admitted to the body politic. So the little band of pioneers on the Ashuelot had to wait three years longer for recognition. Mr. Hale in his Annals, page 28, says:

"On the restoration of peace, the settlers who had been driven from their lands, by the war, made preparations to return. The exact time when Upper Ashuelot was again occupied, has not been ascertained. It was, probably, some time in 1750; certainly as early as 1751; as it is within the recollection of Thomas Wells, now living, who came to reside here in 1752, that eight or ten dwelling houses had then been erected."

But Mr. Hale, writing merely the "Annals of Keene," evidently did not deem it necessary to examine thoroughly the archives of Massachusetts or the records of the province of New Hampshire, and did not discover the above data, which prove clearly that some of the settlers had returned in 1749.

"Prov of Newhamshore

"To his Excellency Benning Wentworth Esqr Govor^{n} &c In & over his Majestys Province of New hampshore

The peti^{on} of John Densmoor & Ruth his Wife Humbly Shews that Josiah Fisher of upper Ashaulott In the Province of New Hamshore decesed Late Husband of the said Ruth had In his Lifetime a Grant from the Massachusettets Government of one Whole Wright or Share In s^{d} township & that In his Lifetime Bult an house & Cleard & In proved Near forty acres of Land In s^{d} township & In the Begining of the War with ye Endins the s^{d} Josiah Was Killed & the s^{d} Ruth ye Wedow of the Dec^{sd} was left with out any Children by the deces^{d} But she still Continued att ye said Ashualuett & In proved s^{d} Lands tell ye Endins Drove of the In habitance of s^{d} town & Sence the Sasition of arms the s^{d} Ruth with hir Present Husband hath fenced & In Proved the s^{d} Lands afore s^{d} wharefore your Petitioners Humbly Pray that your Exellency Would be plesed to Grant to your Petioners the s^{d} Lands afore s^{d} upon the Condition that your Exellency grants to others ye Kings subjects In s^{d} Province & your Petioners In duty Bound Shall Ever Pray—

"Nov^{m} ye 8th 1750 John Dunsmoor
Ruth Dunsmoor"

Hinsdale, Winchester, Westmoreland and Lower Ashuelot were reoccupied about the same time with Upper Ashuelot, and settlements had been made, now soon to

be revived, at Peterboro, Rindge and Hillsborough. No. 4 had been first settled in 1740, and like the other advanced settlements had been abandoned for a time from fear of the Indians; but peace restored its prosperity and in June, 1750, it had a population sufficient to organize a military company of its own citizens numbering twenty-nine officers and men. John Kilburn, at No. 3 (Walpole), was followed in 1752 by Col. Benjamin Bellows.

Migration flowed in all directions to the cheap and fertile lands which might now be occupied in safety. The population of New Hampshire, then about 30,000, increased rapidly. The governor and his friends encouraged immigration, for the business of granting townships was exceedingly profitable. In each case, the governor reserved a large tract of land to himself—usually 500 acres, as in the case of Keene—and he and his subordinates received remunerative fees.

The rich meadow lands on the upper Connecticut and its branches, about the present town of Haverhill, were also occupied by settlers about this time. But this aroused the jealousy of the St. Francis Indians and their allies, the Squawkheags, who still claimed ownership of those lands, rich in fish and game, which had been the hunting ground of their fathers. The whites persisted, and the Indians retaliated by committing some outrages in the eastern and central parts of the province. But, with those exceptions, the Indians were peaceful for several years.

"The sketch here presented of Keene Village [page 101], as it was in 1750, has been drawn by the compiler from the recollection of descriptions of it given him by Thomas Wells, and other aged people, who resided here near that time and had heard people older than themselves talk about it. No building was then standing, and the sites of such only as are designated on the sketch have been precisely ascertained. There was a dwelling house on the road to Boston, near Beaver Brook. The well used by the family, who occupied it, was at the foot of the declivity South of it, near where now grows a large elm tree. It had a high curb, made of small round timber, like a cob house, with a platform leading to it from the top of the bank. When the alarm was given at the time of the attack by the Indians, a man, whose name has not come down to us,

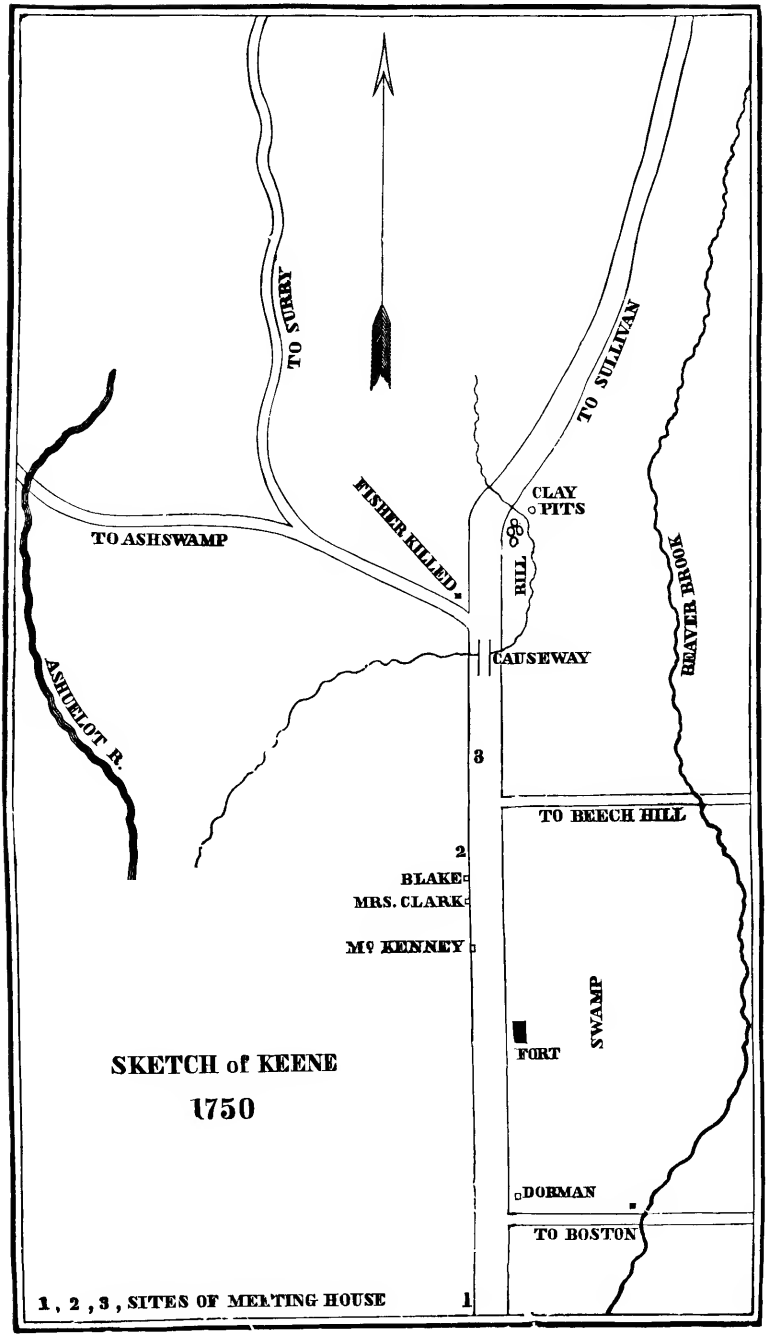
descended into this well, remained there two days, and then ascended, unharmed. When Keene was abandoned, it contained about forty dwelling houses in all.

"It may be worth while to put on record a few facts in regard to Main-street. Where the back part of the Cheshire House now stands, was once a bog, or quagmire which continued South to Church-street, and beyond it. About opposite the Railroad Station, but rather North of it, there was a considerable depression in the street; men now living remember walking erect under the causeway, the top of which was several feet below the present surface; and younger men than they remember when the water (Beaver Brook in a freshet overflowing its banks) was so deep, at this place, that boats were guided, and men swam, from one point on the street to another. On the West side of the street, just South of Gen. Wilson's garden, was a pond surrounded by alders, and after this period visited by wild ducks. A little South of this pond, in the middle of the street, was a conical hill, on which the third meeting-house was placed. And many men now living have most disagreeable recollections of the horrible travelling caused by the deep, adhesive mud which, in the spring of the year, covered many portions of Main-street, as well as of West-street and Court-street. But all the streets have become so dry that but little inconvenience is now felt in travelling, at the worst season of the year. This change has been effected, partly by deepening and clearing out the channels of the Ashuelot River and Beaver Brook, partly by agricultural drains throughout the valley, and partly by carting on gravel, and thus raising and hardening the surface of the streets."

(Annals, pages 28-30.)

The map on the opposite page is printed from the original wood cut which was used in the publication of the Annals of Keene.

In March, 1751, Gov. Wentworth was again petitioned by Jeremiah Hall and Benjamin Guild "in behalf of them Selves and others Inhabitants Settlers and Proprietors of a certain Tract of land Called the upper Township on Ashuelot River," for a charter of incorporation; setting forth "that in the year 1737, in virtue of a Grant from the massachusets Government, a plantation was begun on said Tract of land—That in the year 1738 a minister was settled there and a meeting house built—That before the last Indian War with the Indians there were Thirty one


TO SURRY
TO SULLIVAN
FISHER KILLED
CLAY PITS
TO ASHSWAMP
HILL
BEAVER BROOK
CAUSEWAY
ASHUELOT R.
3
TO BEECH HILL
2
BLAKE
MRS. CLARK
Mr KENNEY
SWAMP
FORT
SKETCH of KEENE
1750
DORMAN
TO BOSTON
1, 2, 3, SITES OF MEETING HOUSE
1

Dwelling houses built on said Tract of land Sundry barns and a Fort of near a hundred foot square having eighteen fire Rooms within said fort a Saw mill and Grist mill built—that the setlers and others who were preparing for setling there before the Indian War had made large Improvements there and laid out their Substanc in doing the same—

"That in the Spring of ye year 1747—The Indians burnt down all the dwelling Houses there except four—also burnt down all the Barns but one also burnt down the meeting house and the Fort also much household Stuff and killed Considerable Cattle Horses Sheep and Swine That the s^{d} Settlers and Proprietors are returned and returning on to the said Tract of land in order to cultivate and Improve the same and in case a peace Continues with the Indians in a few years there will be forty or fifty familys in case there was an Incorporation—Wherefore

"March ye 4th 1750-1 Jeremiah Hall
Benjamin Guild"

This petition met the same fate as the former ones, no notice being taken of it so far as the records show. Neither do we find any record of what was done here in the next two years. But we find the following in the New Hampshire State Papers, vol. 12, page 310:

"Upper Ashuelot Feb^{u} ye 2nd 1753

"We whose names are underwritten Do hereby Authorize and Impower our Trusty Friend Mr Ephraim Dorman to Prefer a Petition to his Excellency the Governour of New Hampshire for a Township known by the Name of the Upper Ashuelot and to Pray his Excellency to Grant a Charter of this Land to the Inhabitants and others Concerned in said Lands and to Insert a Clause in said Petition Praying his Excellency that if it might be Consistent with his Pleasure he would Insert a Clause in his Charter whereby every man may be Intitled to those Lands which he Thought himself to be the Honest owner of he Paying the Charges that have arisen on said Lands to Prevent Endless Law-Suits and other Difficulties Impending over us and to set forth in said Petition the Great Cost and Expence we have been at in Building two Forts and Defending the Kings Lands and the Great Losses we have Sustained by the Enemy as set forth in the Petition Lodged with Mr Atkinson Secretary and to take the Names Lodged with Mr Livermore and annex to said Petition

"Jeremiah Hall	Samuel Reed	Isaac Clark
William Barnes	Benjamin Larrabee	Nathan Blake
Ebenezer Daniels	David Foster	Michael medcalfjr
Jabez Hill	Benjamin Twitchell	Joseph Elles
Timothy Harrington	David Nims	Gideon Ellis
Daniel Twitchell	Ebenezer Day	Eleazer Sanger
Amos Foster	William Smeed	Jonah French."
Titus Belding	Ebenezer Nims	

From the statement above made, and from the list of grantees, it is evident that the original petition, with a larger number of names, had been "Lodged with Mr. Atkinson Secretary" of the province; also that there was an order of the citizens appointing and authorizing Benjamin Bellows to go to Portsmouth as their agent, with Mr. Dorman, to procure the charter, but neither of those papers can now be found.

"At a Council holden at Portsmouth by his Excelencys orders, on Wednesday April 11th 1753.

Present

"Theodore Atkinson, Richard Wibird } Esqrs Samuel Solley, Daniel Warner } Esqrs

"The Secretary by his Excelencys order laid before the Board the petition of Benja Bellows in behalf of & as impower'd by the claimers & settlers of that tract of land called & known by the name of the upper Ashuelot praying that as they had settled the said tract of land by virtue of a grant from the Massachusetts Governmt before the line of Governmt was run and continued there till drove of by the Indian War &c and that a grant may be made so as not to break in upon their former surveys & laying out but to those persons that claim the same & have made improvements thereon &c and then asked the Council wheither they would advise his Excelency to make the said grant agreable to the said request—To which they did unanimously consent & advise."

(Prov. Papers, vol. 6, page 21.)

Claiming the right to name the town, the governor named it Keene. In his business as merchant at Portsmouth, previous to his appointment as governor, Mr. Wentworth had contracted with an agent of the court of Spain to supply that government with a large quantity of oak timber. To meet the expense involved he borrowed money in London. When he delivered the timber at Cadiz the agent with whom he had made the contract was out

of office and the new agent declined to pay. On his voyage home his ship foundered and he was saved with the crew in a boat, to find himself bankrupt. Afterwards he made another voyage to Spain and claimed payment for his timber. Sir Benjamin Keene was then the English minister to Spain, and he used his influence to aid Mr. Wentworth, who, though unsuccessful in his suit, formed a warm friendship for Sir Benjamin, and his gratitude, and his admiration for the man, led him to name this town in his honor. (See sketch of Sir Benjamin Keene.)

The charter covered the same tract granted by Massachusetts with the addition of a narrow strip on the east side extending to the "Patent Line"—the west line of the Mason grant of 1629, a curve which formed the original west lines of Fitzwilliam, Packersfield, Stoddard; the east lines of Richmond, Keene, Gilsum, Newport, Croydon, and so on through the state;—thus ratifying the Massachusetts grant and confirming the proprietors in the possession of their lands. The town then contained 39.45 square miles, or 25,248 acres.

CHARTER OF KEENE, 1753.

The following is the record of the charter of Keene found in the Book of Charters, pages 149-152:

P–S–

Keene

Province of New Hamp^{r}

George the Second by the Grace of God of Great Brittain France & Ireland King Defender of the faith &c^{a}

To all Persons to whom these Presents Shall come Greeting

Whereas Sundry of our Loveing Subjects before the Settlement of the Dividing Line of our Province of New Hampshire aforesaid and our Other Government of the Massachusetts Bay had by Permission of our Said Government of the Massachusetts Bay begun A Settlement of A Tract of Land on Ashuelot River so Called and made Sundry Divisions of & Improvements upon the Said Tract of Land And there remain'd till the Indian Warr forced them off and our Said Subjects being Desireous to make an Immediate Settlement on the Premisses & haveing Petitioned our Governour in Council for his Majestys Grant of the Premisses to be so made as might not subvert & Distroy their former Surveys & Laying out in severalty made thereon as aforesaid Now Know Ye that we of our Especial

Grace Certain Knowledge & mere motion for answering the Ends above said and for the Due Encouragement of Settling the Said Plantation by & with the Advice of our Trusty & wellbeloved BENNING WENTWORTH Esq our Governour & Commander in Chieff in & over our Said Province of New Hampshire in America and of our Council of our s^{d} Province Have upon the Conditions & Reservations herein after made Given & Granted and by these Presents for us our heirs & Successors Do give & Grant unto our Loveing Subjects Inhabitants of our Said Province of New Hampshire and our Other Governments in New England And to their heirs and Assignes for ever whose names are Entered on this Grant to be Divided to & amoungst them into So many & Such Shares & Proportions as they now hold or Claim the same by Purchas Contract Vote or Agrement made amoungst themselves All that Tract or Parcel of Land Scituate Lying & being within our Said Province of New Hampshire Containing by admeasurement Twenty three thousend & forty Acres which Tracts is to Contain Six Miles Square & no more out of which an allowance is to be made for highways and unimprovable Land by Rocks Mountains Ponds & Rivers One thousend & forty Acres free According to a Plan thereof made & Presented by our Said Governours orders And hereunto Annexed Butted & bounded as follows—Viz—Beginning at A Beach Tree the North West Corner & Runs South Six Degrees an an half East four miles & Seventy rods to A Beach Tree marked Thence runs East Ten Degrees & a half South Six miles & one hundred & Eighty Rods to A heap of Stones thence runs North Seventeen degrees East Six Miles & Eighty Rods to A Tree marked being the South East Corner of Boyle thence runs West five Degrees and an half South Eight Miles & Two hundred & fifty rods to the Bounds first mentioned And that the Same be and hereby is Incorporated into A Township by the name of Keene and that the Inhabitants that Do or Shall hereafter Inhabit the Said Township Are hereby Declared to be Enfranchized with and Intituled to all & every the Previledges And Immunities that Other Towns within our Said Province by Law Exercize & Enjoy and further that the Said Town as Soon as there Shall be fifty families Shall have the Liberty to open & keep A Market one or more Days in Each week as may be tho^{t} most Advantagious to the Inhabitants also that the first Meeting for the Choice of Town officers & other affairs Agreable to the Laws of our Said Province Shall be held on the first Wednesday in May next which Meeting Shall be Notifyed by Mr Benjamin Bellows who is hereby Also Appointed the Moderator of the said first Meeting

which he is to Notify & Govern Agreable to the Law & Custom of our Said Province And that the Annual Meeting for ever hereafter for the Choice of Such officers for the Said Town Shall be on the first Tuesday in March annually—To HAVE & TO HOLD the said Tract of Land as above Expressed togeather with all Previledges and Appurtenances to them or their respective heirs and assigns forever upon the following Conditions (Viz) that every Grantee his heirs & assignes Shall Plant or Cultivate five Acres of Land within the Term of five years for every fifty Acres Contained in his or their Share or Proportion of Land in the Said Township & Continue to Improve & Settle the same by Aditional Cultivations on Penalty of the forfeiture of his Grant or Share in the said Township and its reverting to his Majesty his heirs and Successors to be by him or them regranted to Such of his Subjects as shall Effectually Settle & Cultivate the Same—That all white & other Pine Trees within the Said Township fit for masting[1] our Royal Navy be Carefully Preserved for that use & none to be Cutt or fell'd without his Majesties Especial Lycence for so Doing first had & obtaind upon the Penalty of the forfeiture of the right of Such Grantee his heirs or assigns to us our heirs and Successors as well as being Subject to the Penalty of any Act or Acts of Parliament that now are or hereafter Shall be Enacted.

That before any further Division of the Said Land be made to and amoungst the grantees A Tract of Land in the most Comodious Place the Land will admit of Shall be reserved & marked out for Town Lotts one of which shall be allotted to Each Grantee of the Contents of one Acre Yeilding & Paying therefor to us our heirs & Successors for the Space of Ten years to be Computed from the Date hereof the rent of One Ear of Indian Corn only on the first day of January next Ensueing the Date hereof —And every Proprietor Settler or Inhabitant Shall Yield & Pay unto us our heirs & Successors Yearly & Every Year for ever from & after the Expiration of the Ten years from the Date hereof Namely on the first Day of Jan^{ry} which will be in the Year of our Lord Christ One thousend seven hundred & Sixty three One Shilling Proclamation money for every hundred Acres he so owns Settles or Possesses and so in Proportion for a Greater or Lesser Tract of the Said Land which money shall be paid by the Respective Persons abovesaid their heirs or assignes in our Council Chamber in Portsmouth or to such officer or officers as Shall be appointed to receive the Same and this to

[1] The mast trees were marked by the surveyor general or his deputy, and there was a fine of 100 pounds for cutting a tree thus marked.

be in Lieu of all other rents & services whatsoever In Wittness whereof We have Caused the Seal of Our said Province to be hereunto affixed Wittness BENNING WENTWORTH Esq our Governour & Com'ander in Chieff of our Said Province the 11th Day of April in the year of our Lord Christ 1753 & in the 26th year of our reign—

B Wentworth

By his Excellencys Com'and with Advice of Council

Theodore Atkinson Sec^ry

Entred & recorded According to the Original under the Province Seal the 11th Day of April 1753—

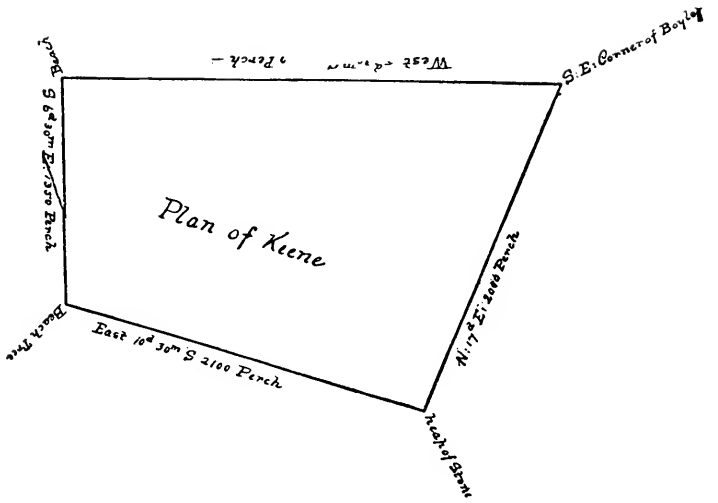
℔ Theodore Atkinson Sec^ry

The Names of the Grantees of Keene—Viz—

John Adams, Jacob Bacon, Thomas Bacon,
Stephen Blake, Nathan Blake, Obediah Blake,
Elijah Blake, Sam^ll Brigham, Nathan Bucknam,
John Ballard's heirs, Isaac Clark, Ebenezer Daniels,
Edward Dale, Eph^m Dorman, Sam^ll Ellis,
Joseph Ellis, Gideon Ellis, Titus Belden,
Eleazer Sanger, Benj^a Bellows, Joseph Fisher,
Samuel Fisher, Benj^a Gile, Ebenezer Forces's heirs,
Jacob Gibbs, Sarah Green, Joseph Gile's heirs,
Jeremiah Hall, Benjamin Halls' heirs, Daniel Hawse,
Nathaniel Heaton, Seth Heaton, Jabez Hill,
Daniel Kingsbury, Richard Man, Henry Messenger's heirs,
John Fairbanks, Michael Medcalf jun^r, Ebenezer Nims,
Joseph Peabodys heirs, David Nims, Samuel Read,
Israel Houghton, Timothy Puffer, John Richardson,
Josiah Willard, Moses Richardson, Asa Richardson
John Rogers, Willm Smeed, Samuel Smith,
Benj^a Twitchell, Jon^a Underwood, Andrew Wilder,
Joseph Whitcome, John Whiteing, Amos Foster
David Foster, Jeremiah Hall jun^r, Jonah French,
John French, Philemon Chandler jun^r, His Excellency Benning Wentworth Esq one Tract of Land of the Contents of five hundred Acres One Sixty forth Parte of the Said Tract for the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign Parts, One Sixty forth Parte of the Said Tract for the first Settled Minister of the Gospel in S^d Town One Sixty forth Parte of the said Tract for A Glebe for the Church of England as by Law Established Philemon Chandler, Ebenezer Day,—

Recorded from the Back of the Charter for Keene the 11th Day of April 1753—

℔ Theodore Atkinson Sec^ry



Taken from the Plan on the Back of the Charter of Keene & record the 11th April 1753

℔ Theodore Atkinson Secry

The original charter, framed, hangs in the office of the mayor and city clerk in city hall building.

In compliance with the terms of the charter, "Mr. Benjamin Bellows" of Walpole gave the required notice, and the first town meeting was held in the fort on Wednesday, the second day of May. The record is as follows:

"At a Legal meeting of the Proprietors and Inhabitants of the Town of Keen Held on Wednesday the second Day of May ADom. 1753 Assembled at the Fort in sd Town: The Following votes were Passed—

"1 Choose Ephraim Dorman Michael Metcalf and William Smeed Selectmen, 2 Choose David Nims Town Clerk Choose David Nims Town Treasurer, Choose Ebenezer Nims Constable, Choose Gideon Ellis and Isaac Clark seveyors of the Highway, Choose Jonah French And William Barran Hog Reifes, Leut Seth Heaton and Nathan Blake Fence Veiwers, Choose John French and Samuel Hall Field Drivers. Voted that Town Meetings shall be Warned for the Future by Posting up a Notification in the most Publick Place in This Town Fouteen Days before the meeting.

Benjamin Bellows } Moderator
David Nims } Town Clerk."

On the same day, a meeting of the proprietors was also held in the fort. The proceedings were recorded as follows:

"Province of New Hampshire.

"at a Legal Meeting of the Proprietors of the Township of Keene held on the first Wednesday of May Anno Dom. 1753 according to a warrant Set up to Notify the Proprietors of said Township of Keene by Benjn Bellows which by Order of Charter was to Notify the Same Said Meeting being Held at the Fort in Said Township on the Day above Said Benjn Bellows being Moderator.

"2^{ly} Voted on the Second article and Chose Benjn Bellows Proprietors Clerk for the Township of Keene.

"3^{ly} Chose Mr William Smeed Mr Isaac Clark Mr Nathan Blake Capt Jeremiah Hall and Mr David Foster to be a Committee for to see to the Survey of the Lands that have been voted to be Laid out in Said Township which is not as yet Laid out and also to See to the Running the Bounds of what has been already Laid out and approve of the same that they may be Recorded in the New Proprietors Book—"

The vote on the 4th article provided for the calling of proprietors' meetings similar to that already in force.

"5^{ly} Voted to Benjamin Bellows one Hundred and Twenty two Spanish Milled Dollars for his Service and Expence in getting the Charter of Keene.

"Voted to Mr Ephraim Dorman Eight Dollars for his Service in going to Portsmouth.

"Voted to Raise one Hundred and Twenty Two Pounds old tenor for the Use of Preaching the Present year.

"Voted that they Renew all the Bounds of all the Lotts that have been Laid out in Said Township and where any Lot has not been Laid out that the Committe Chosen Lay out with a Surveyor those Lots to those men according to the Former votes of the Prop^{rs} and that the Plans of the Same be allowed of by the Committee In order to be Recorded and that every mans Land be Recorded according to what he now holds or Claims and that Each man be at the Cost of his Land being Surveyed and Recorded.

"6^{ly} Chose Mr Michael Metcalf Junr Prop^{rs} Treasurer.

"7^{ly} Chose Mr Isaac Clark Mr Obadiah Blake Mr Ephraim Dorman assessors.

"8^{ly} Voted and Chose Mr William Smeed Collector to Collect ye Dollars that was voted—voted and Chose Mr Amos Foster Collector to Collect the money Granted for the Use of Preaching the Present year.

"9ly Voted to Theodore Attkinson Esqr Three Hundred acres of Land to be Laid out in the undivided Land in Sd Township to be Laid out in good Form Said Land to be Laid out by Benjn Bellows Mr William Smeed and Capt Jeremiah Hall a Committee appointed to Lay it out according to the best of their Discretion.

"Also voted to Capt Jeremiah Hall Three Hundred acres of Land to be Laid out in Said Township by a Committe for his Extraordinary Cost and Trouble in Time Past he Giving a Discharge to the Proprietors for what money was Due to him from the Proprietors, Said Land to be Laid out in that Part of Land that is added on the East of the old Line by the New Charter and that Mr Nathan Blake & Mr William Smeed and Benjn Bellows be a Committe to Lay out the Same then voted to Dismiss the meeting.

Benjn Bellows moder
Benjn Bellows Propers Clerk."

"The inhabitants immediately directed their attention to the concerns of religion. As a place for public worship, they erected a building, on a green plat near the house of Aaron Appleton.[1] It was built of slabs, the earth serving as a floor. And, with the inhabitants of Swanzey. they made a joint arrangement for the settlement of a pastor."
(Annals, page 31.)

A second town meeting was held at the fort on the 13th of June:

"1. Choose Ephraim Dorman Moderator.

"2 made Choice of the Rev'd Mr. Carpenter for Our Minister—

"3 For Incouragement or Settlement, voted to give the Rev'd Mr. Carpenter the Sum of Fifty Pounds Silver money at Six shillings and Eaight Pence pr Ounce.—Or Equivalent in Our own Province Bills. 4ly Voted that the Town Yearly Find Mr. Carpenter Twent Cord of Fire wood.

"5ly Choose Capt Jeremiah Hall Michael Metcalf and William Smeed For a Committe to Lay the Proposal made by the Town before the Rev'd Mr. Carpenter.

Ephraim Dorman } Moderator
David Nims } Town Clerk"

"Keen June 13th 1753.

At this time the inhabitants of Keene expected to support a minister without assistance, but the churches of Keene and Swanzey agreed to unite and each bear half the expense.

[1] Where the Roman Catholic church now stands.

It appears from the records of the church in Swanzey, where Mr. Carpenter resided, that the two churches not only "covenanted together to hire preaching in connection" but that the members of each "met at the school house" in that town on the 21st of August, 1753, and "agreed to become one church." The members from Keene present at that meeting were Jeremiah Hall, David Foster, William Smeed, Nathan Blake, Joseph Ellis, Ebenezer Nims and Ebenezer Day.

The following was copied from Mr. Carpenter's own handwriting:

"The towns of Swanzey and Keene in New Hampshire (formerly stiled Lower and Upper Ashuelot) having mutually and unanimously agreed to be one Religious Society and to Worship together for the space of three years, the Towns being at Equal Expense In the support of the Gospel During the Term. * * * * The Chh also having Signed the Covenant Consequent on said agreement and become one Church The Pastoral Care of these Chh's & Towns was solemnly Committed to me on Oct. 4th 1753.

* * * *

Ezra Carpenter."

But each town had its own meetinghouse. Mr. Carpenter was permitted to choose his place of residence and he chose Swanzey.[1] At the expiration of the three years the connection was continued yearly for four years more.

At the installation of Mr. Carpenter over the two churches "there were present by their elders etc., the First Church in Hingham, the Third Church in Plymouth, the Church in Kingston in the County of Plymouth, the First Church in Lancaster, the Church in Nichewong, the Church in Poquoiag (Athol), the Church in Deerfield, the Church in Sunderland, and the Church in Northfield." (Swanzey Church Records.)

"Feb. 29, 1754,

"It was voted that the Three Deacons should be dropt, viz. Deacon Foster, Deacon Brown and Deacon Hammond and a New choice made at ye same time Mr. David Foster & Mr. Jonathan Hammond were chosen again into Sd office. It was moreover Voted that the Sacrament of ye Lords Supper be Celebrated the first Lords

[1] For description of that residence see personal sketch of Rev. Ezra Carpenter.

Days in March, June, September and December if provision can be made & nothing Intervene to hinder it—This Method to Continue till we may see Reason to alter it."

And it was also agreed that "Six Shillings old Tenor Massachusetts Money be paid by each Communicant to support the Communon Table." (Swanzey Church Records.)

Another meeting of the proprietors, held at 10 o'clock in the forenoon on the 19th of December, 1753, chose Benjamin Bellows moderator, and David Foster clerk.

As above quoted from the Annals, the proprietors had provided a temporary building for worship and other public uses, and this meeting was held "at the meeting house (so called) in said Town." It was sometimes called the "Public meeting place." The committee formerly chosen to take care of the blacksmith's tools were instructed to look them up and deliver them to a committee consisting of Ebenezer Clark, William Smeed and Michael Metcalf.

On the same day at 2 o'clock in the afternoon a town meeting was held at the same place, Ephraim Dorman, moderator. That meeting "Voted to Build a meeting House Forty Five Feet Long and Thirty Five Feet wide and Twenty Two Feet Between Joints,"—and "adjourned to Wednesday the Second Day of January Next att one of the Clock in the afternoon and To meet at the Public meeting Place."

Apparently there were doubts about the legality of that meeting, for on the same day the selectmen, in writing, directed the constable—Ebenezer Nims—to "Warn the Freeholders and Inhabitance of the Town of Keene Qualified to vote in Town Meetings, To meet at the meeting House in s^{d} Keen on Wednesday the Second Day of January Next at Three o'clock in the afternoon."

That meeting was warned and held as directed, and Capt. Jeremiah Hall was chosen moderator. But the records say it immediately "adjourned to Two of the Clock[1] in the afternoon and Then to meet at the House of Michael Metcalf." It then "Voted to The Rev'd Mr. Carpenter for a Sallary for this pres^{t} [present] year Twenty Six Pounds Silver Money at six shillings and Eaight Pence

[1] Apparently adjourning backwards one hour, and leaving the meetinghouse to the other meeting which had adjourned to meet there at one o'clock the same afternoon.

pr oz. or equivelent in our own Province Bills." The records of this meeting are signed:

"Jeremiah Hall } moderator
David Nims } Town Clerk."

The other town meeting, adjourned from the 19th of December to one o'clock of the same afternoon as the above —Jan. 2, 1754—at the "Public meeting Place"—Ephraim Dorman moderator, David Nims town clerk—"Voted to set the meeting House in the Croch of the Roads[1] so called, one of the Roads Leading up the River and the other Leading over the River to ash Swamp so called—

"Voted that one Hundred Pounds in Bills of New Tenour of this Province be Raised on the Pools and Rateable Estates of this Town and Paid into the Treasury To Defray the Charges that shall arise in the Building s[d] House.

"Voted Michael Metcalf Ebenezer Clark Nathan Blake Isaac Clark and Dea. David Foster be a Committee to manage the affair in Building the House."

"Ephraim Dorman } Moderator
David Nims } Town Clerk."

"Keen Jan[r] 2[d] 1754."

A meeting on the 28th of the same month, at the same place—Michael Metcalf, moderator—reconsidered the vote locating the meetinghouse, "upon Consideration of the Unfittness of the Ground to set a meeting House and the Exposedness to Fire and to the Enemy in Case of a war," and "Voted that the meeting House be set upon the Road that goeth From the Town Street to the Mills on the Highest Ground Between the Causeway by William Smeeds and the Bridge by the Clay Pitts Near Eleazer Sangers Land Lying on sd Road."

"The mills here mentioned must have been the mills on Beaver Brook, and the road Washington-street. At this time, probably, there was no road where the East end of West-street now is. Mr. Guild states, from his own recollection, that the South side of the meeting-house was about on a line with the North line of West-street, as it now runs."

(Annals, page 32.)

William Smeed lived on the east side of Main street next south of the present track of the railroad, and the "causeway" was in the line of the street a little north of

[1] Near where Hon. C. J. Woodward now lives.

that track. The "bridge" was a little northwest of our present city hall. This "highest ground" was on a line with West and Roxbury streets as they now run, and the meetinghouse was built about where the soldiers' monument now stands.

The first annual town meeting was held at the "Public meeting Place" on Tuesday, the 5th of March, 1754, as required by the charter.

Michael Metcalf was chosen moderator; David Nims, town clerk; Dea. David Foster, Ephraim Dorman, Michael Metcalf, David Nims and Nathan Blake, selectmen; and Benjamin Twitchell and William Smeed, surveyors of highways. William Smeed and Gideon Ellis were added to the committee to build the meetinghouse.

The fifth article in the warrant was "To se if they will Reconsider the vote pas'd at Our Last meeting Relating to the Place of the setting the meeting House." Voted to dismiss the article.

The next meeting of the proprietors was opened "at the House Commonly used for a Meeting House" on the 24th of December in the same year—Michael Metcalf, moderator, and David Foster, proprietors' clerk—and adjourned to the house of Joseph Ellis.

"Upon the fourth Article Voted that those that have Lands in the Township of Keene make out their title to their Lands at or before the first Day of October which will be in the year of our Lord 1755 Unto a Com^{tee} Chosen for that Purpose.

"Upon the Fifth article Chose Mr David Nims, Lieu^{t} Ephraim Dorman, Capt Michael Metcalf, Lieu^{t} Seth Heaton, Sergeant Eben^{r} Nims a Com^{tee} to See that Prop^{rs} title to Lands in this Township be Lawful and good and upon their making out a good Title to give them Liberty to have the Same Recorded in the Prop^{rs} Book of Records."

The 6th article, "to See if the Prop^{rs} will Dispose of Some of their Lands to Defray the Charge of the meeting House in s^{d} Township," was dismissed.

Among the earliest roads opened in town was the one now named Beaver street, laid out by the selectmen in 1754. It had been used as a highway previous to that time.

CHAPTER IV.

THE LAST FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR.

1754—1760.

The treaty of Aix la Chapelle had brought a suspension of hostilities between England and France, but not permanent peace. None of the questions at issue had been settled; both nations were eagerly grasping more territory in America; their interests and their claims continued to clash, and war broke out again in 1754. Since 1749, with occasional exceptions, the returning pioneers and others who had joined them had been left in peaceful possession of their property, and the little settlements in New Hampshire had increased in population, others had been added to them, and all had taken on an air of thrift and prosperity. But now the savages again threatened the frontier.

Foreseeing the impending storm, the legislature took up the militia laws of the province, amended them to suit the times, and made them more stringent and effective. The old laws of 1718 and 1719 provided that "All male persons from 16 to 60 years of age, except Negroes and Indians, should perform military service," and lists of all persons within the precincts of a company or troop were to be taken by the clerk of such company four times a year; that all should attend duty when listed; and heavy fines were imposed for neglect or refusal. The towns were required to "provide a stock of powder, bullets, flints and arms for their poor and renew the same from time to time;" and all the details of military service and discipline were provided for. Under the new laws, company officers were required to call out their troops or companies at least four times a year for military exercise, under a penalty of five pounds for each day's neglect. Every foot soldier failing to perform his military duty was fined ten shillings for each day's neglect, and every trooper twenty shillings; and for all fines an officer could issue his warrant and make

distress—attach the delinquent's property and sell at auction on four days' notice.

Massachusetts offered bounties of fifty pounds for every male Indian over twelve years of age delivered at Boston, or forty pounds for every scalp of such Indian; twenty-five pounds for every female prisoner of any age and for males under twelve, and twenty pounds for every scalp of such female or boy. An act was also passed by the legislature of that province, giving to companies of "not less than thirty men scouting not less than thirty days a bounty of £220 to be paid out of the public treasury for every captive delivered as aforesaid, and £200 for every scalp."

Rangers were considered the best protection for the settlements, and companies were soon formed, the most noted being those of Captain—afterwards Major—Robert Rogers, with Captains John and William Stark, all of New Hampshire. They afterwards joined the expeditions against Crown Point and Ticonderoga and did excellent service there and all through the war. They served as scouts and guides for the army, and distinguished themselves in many bloody encounters. In the last years of the war they were "the most terrible band of partizan warriors in America."[1] "Inured to savage warfare they gained a continental reputation," and "no colony sent better troops into the field."[2]

There was a military company in Keene at that time, with a full complement of officers, but no roll of its members has been found. It was attached to the regiment of Col. Joseph Blanchard of Dunstable (Nashua) of which Josiah Willard of this town was lieutenant colonel, the same who had command of a company here in 1748.

On the 11th of June, 1754, the Indians came to the house of Nathaniel Meloon of Stevenstown (Salisbury) and carried him, his wife and three children away captives. On the 15th of August, they appeared again near the same place, killed Mrs. Call and Timothy Cook and captured Enos Bishop. Those upper settlements were broken up and the inhabitants retired to the lower towns for safety.

[1] Barstow's History of New Hampshire, page 197.
[2] Lodge's History of American Colonies.

Gov. Wentworth sent two detachments of twenty men each from Exeter and Kingston, and one of fifty men from Col. Blanchard's regiment, under Major John Goffe, to scout in the eastern and central parts of the province. Before the close of the month he also sent two detachments from Col. Blanchard's regiment under Major Benjamin Bellows to protect the Connecticut valley. One of twenty-one men was stationed at Walpole under Major Bellows himself, who served as lieutenant commanding the company, with the veteran Capt. Phineas Stevens as his orderly sergeant. These officers held the higher rank in the regiment of militia, and at the same time accepted positions of lower rank in the detachments for defence. Major Bellows was expected to cover Charlestown, Walpole, Westmoreland and Great Meadows, and even Westminster and Rockingham, but he had also the local militia to assist. The other company of twenty-six men was placed under Lt. Col. Josiah Willard, who also served as lieutenant commanding the company, and small detachments were stationed at Fort Dummer, Keene and other places in this vicinity. The men were mustered Sept. 13 and discharged Nov. 19, of that year. Ichabod Fisher of Keene was in Willard's company These troops were in addition to the local militia; but beyond this New Hampshire did almost nothing for the protection of the settlements in the Connecticut valley.

Gov. Shirley of Massachusetts complained to the king of the neglect of New Hampshire, and asked to be relieved from the maintenance of those forts which were now beyond his jurisdiction. The king sent additional instructions to Gov. Wentworth, who urged upon the legislature the necessity of making provision for the defence of the western frontier. But the legislature delayed action, alleged the poverty of the province as an excuse for shirking the expense, and gained time by sending an address to the king. The king's instructions to Gov. Wentworth had contained a threat to restore Fort Dummer to Massachusetts "with a proper district contiguous thereto" if New Hampshire did not provide for its maintenance; and the same threat applied to all these forts in New Hampshire

which Massachusetts maintained. But to the document was also added: "But His Majesty, considering the importance of the said fort, and the great mischief that may happen to his subjects in those parts, in case the same should in the mean time fall into the hands of the enemy, doth therefore think it proper hereby to order and require the governor of Massachusetts Bay to represent to the assembly of that province the necessity of continuing to provide for the security of Fort Dummer until a final answer can be obtained from New Hampshire and His Majesty's pleasure be further signified herein."

Upon receiving this order the general court of Massachusetts voted to maintain those forts for three months; and they afterwards extended the time and kept troops there till the spring of 1757, when they were made places of rendezvous by the generals commanding the British forces, and remained under their control through the war. At this time there were thirty-two families at Charlestown, and they had left the fort and settled on their lots. The place was generally called No. 4 until after the close of this war, and even in the early part of the 19th century.

On the 30th of August that place was again visited by the savages. Eleven of them went to the house of Capt. James Johnson, about 100 rods north of the fort, captured him, his wife, three children, a young sister of Mrs. Johnson, Ebenezer Farnsworth and Peter Larabee, and took them to Crown Point and thence to Canada.

This and the outrages at Stevenstown were committed by the St. Francis Indians and their allies, the Schaghticokes and Squawkheags, who formerly inhabited this region.

Capt. Phineas Stevens, who was at No. 4, immediately sent a dispatch to his commanding officer on the frontier, Col. Hinsdale, at Fort Dummer, announcing the capture and stating the time to have been on the morning of the 30th of August. Maj. Bellows was at Westmoreland when the news reached him, and he immediately reported the fact to his regimental commander, Col. Blanchard, but makes an error of one day in the time of the capture.

Letter from Major Bellows to Col. Blanchard.

"Sir: We have the news from Charlestown, that on Thursday morning, the 29th of this instant, the Indians came to the house of James Johnson, broke in and took said Johnson, his wife, and three children, and a maid, and one Ebenezer Farnsworth and Larabee and they suppose have carried them all off. They have not found any of them killed. The people are in great distress all down the river and at Keene and at Swanzey, and the few men sent, will not supply more than one town, and the people cannot secure their grain nor hardly keep their garrison &c.

"BENJAMIN BELLOWS.

"Westmoreland, Aug. 31, 1754.

Colonel Joseph Blanchard.

"P. S. I have got no further than Westmoreland, when I wrote this, and got all the men safe there. B. B."

Mr. Hale in his Annals of Keene says: "In this year, the savages again committed acts of hostility.—Some time in the fall, an express arrived at Keene, bringing information, that a party of the enemy had appeared in the vicinity of Penacook (Concord), where they had killed, and captured, several whites. This was in the afternoon. The inhabitants immediately assembled, and appointed several persons to keep guard, through the night, directing them to walk, continually, from the house of David Nims (near Lewis Page's house, in Prison-street), to the meadow gate (near Mr. Carpenter's); and agreed immediately to complete the fort, the re-building of which had already been commenced. The next day every one able to labor, went to work upon the fort, and soon prepared it for the reception of the settlers." (That is, repaired the eighteen or twenty houses inside the fort for families to occupy. Mr. Carpenter lived where Mr. E. F. Lane now does.)

The spring of 1755 opened with the movement of three expeditions against the strongholds of the French on our borders. One under Gen. Braddock to Fort Duquesne; one under Gen. Shirley of Massachusetts against Niagara; and one commanded by Gen. Johnson against Crown Point.

However delinquent New Hampshire may have been in protecting the settlements in the Connecticut valley, she did nobly in furnishing troops for outside expeditions. For the army of Gen. Johnson, the province raised a regiment of 600 men under Col. Joseph Blanchard of Dunstable, with Josiah Willard of Keene lieutenant colonel. That regiment was ready to take the field on the 1st of April, and was

ordered to rendezvous at the fort in Stevenstown, now Franklin. The fort was on the bank of the Merrimac river, on the farm since owned by Daniel Webster. The regiment marched from there to No. 4, and thence via Fort Dummer and Albany to join Gen. Johnson, and was posted at Fort Edward. No names of Keene men are found on the rolls of this regiment except that of Lt. Col. Willard, doubtless for the reason that all were needed to protect their own settlement.

Early in the season the Indians began their ravages in these valleys. At No. 4 they killed a number of cattle, carrying away every part that was valuable for food or for any other purpose. So free from these raids had the country been for several years that people had pushed out into the wilderness and taken up lands beyond the protection of the forts. These advanced settlers, some of them miles away from any fort or neighbors, were now in great peril. Several families in this vicinity, among them Mr. Peter Hayward, the first settler in what is now Surry, hastened to the fort in Keene. His next neighbor, Mr. Ebenezer Day of Keene, came at the same time.

In June the Indians attacked a party at Hinsdale, on the west side of the Connecticut, in what is now Vernon, Vt., killed two men and captured one. The others escaped to the fort. On the 27th they surprised Caleb How, Hilkiah Grout and Benjamin Gaffield near the same place. How was killed, Gaffield was drowned in attempting to cross the river, and Grout escaped. The savages then went to Bridgman's Fort, where these men belonged, captured fourteen persons and burned the fort. Among the prisoners was the wife of Caleb How, "The Fair Captive," whose pathetic story is told in a brilliant manner by Col. Humphrey in his "Life of Gen. Israel Putnam."[1] On the 30th of the same month, they appeared again at Keene.

"On one of the last days of June, an attack was made on the fort at Keene, then in command of Capt. William Syms. The savages were beaten off; but in their retreat they killed many cattle, burned several buildings, and captivated Benjamin Twitchell."[2]

[1] See also Belknap's History of New Hampshire, vol. 3.
[2] Massachusetts Archives.

"When traces of Indians were discovered, near any of the frontiers, it was the custom to fire, as an alarm to all within hearing, three guns in regular and quick succession. If heard at any of the posts, it was answered in the same manner; if not answered, the alarm was repeated. In June, the people at Westmoreland, discovering traces of Indians, fired an alarm, which was heard at Keene. A body of men was immediately sent to their relief; but they returned without discovering the enemy. That they were lurking in the vicinity, and that they followed home the party from Keene, is probable, as, the next day they captured Benjamin Twitchell. He had been to Ash Swamp; on his return, he took with him a tub, which, it is supposed, he carried upon his head. This tub was afterwards found, on the East bank of the river, near where the mills now stand; and there the Indians probably seized him. He was conducted up the river; in the meadows, West and North of deacon Wilder's, the Indians killed several oxen, a horse and colt. The colt was cut up, and the best pieces of meat carried off. In this meadow, they left a bow made of leverwood, and several arrows. They encamped, for the night, in M'Curdy's meadow, in Surry, where four crotched sticks were discovered driven into the ground, in such positions as led to the belief that to each was confined one of the limbs of the prisoner. The party then proceeded to Quebec, where Twitchell met with Josiah Foster and his family, who were captured at Winchester. For the honor of Foster, the particulars of his capture should be recorded. Returning home, one evening, he found his house in the possession of Indians, who had captured his wife and children. He could have escaped, but he determined to give himself up, that he might share their fate, and have an opportunity to alleviate their sufferings. He accompanied them to Quebec, carrying his wife on his back, a great part of the way. There they remained until, being ransomed, they were sent, by water, to Boston. Twitchell was put on board the same vessel, but, being taken sick, he was set on shore, and died in a few days.

"A month or two afterwards, a party of Indians were discovered in the meadow, South of the town line, by the people of Swanzey They, with four soldiers to guard them, were coming, in a body and armed, to work in the North meadows. The soldiers, who were in advance, heard a rustling in the bushes, and one, supposing it caused by a deer, fired his musket at the spot. The Indians, supposing they were discovered, rose and fired at the soldiers, who, frightened, ran to the quarter, now called Scotland. The people, coming up, saw the Indians, attacked them, and

drove them to the plain, West of the factory. An express was instantly sent to Keene; and a party of fifteen men, under Capt. Metcalf, went out to meet them. This party went first to the foot of the hill, beyond Mr. Heaton's, supposing the Indians would there cross the Branch. Remaining there a short time, without discovering any Indians, a Mr. Howard proposed to go to another ford still farther up. Josiah French, a shrewd man, observed, 'those who wish to meet with the Indians, had better stay here: I feel no desire to see them, and will go over the hill with Howard.' It was agreed to go over the hill; but no sooner had they reached the top of the nearest eminence, than they discovered nine Indians crossing at the ford they had left. They lay in wait for them a few hours, but did not see them afterwards. Returning to the fort, Howard received no mercy from the men, women and children within it. Several days afterwards, the men went, in a body and armed, to hoe Mr. Day's corn, near Surry, and discovered that an old house, in that neighborhood, had been burnt; it was supposed to have been set on fire by the same party of Indians.

"Afterwards, but in what year is not recollected, another, and the last party of Indians made a visit to Keene. The inhabitants had cleared and fenced a large common field consisting of about two hundred acres, laying southwardly of Mrs. Lanman's [Thomas Thompson's] house. This field was used as a cow pasture, and the access to it was by a path which led southwardly along the high ground East of the place where the turnpike and Baker's lane unite. When driving their cows to this pasture, it was the custom of the inhabitants not to go in the path, for fear of a surprise, but on one or the other side of it. Early one morning, they came suddenly upon a party of Indians, concealed in thick bushes, and busily engaged in mending their moccasons. They instantly started up and escaped. It was afterwards ascertained that the leather, with which they were mending their moccasons, had been stolen, the night before, from a tannery at Walpole or Charlestown."

(Annals, pages 32-4.)

In July came the depressing news of Braddock's defeat in his attempt on Fort Duquesne. The province had been drained of men to swell those three armies of invasion, every one of which was defeated. In many places the crops were lost or greatly injured from want of men to cultivate and gather them, and the outlook for the coming winter was exceedingly gloomy.

July 25, Seth Field of Northfield, writes: "Since the disastrous tidings from Ohio, and the delay of the Crown Point forces, the mischief done above us together with our circumstances, has so discouraged the hearts of our people that they are almost ready to give up all and care only for their lives. A fine harvest is on the ground, and likely to be lost for want of a guard. The few soldiers we have are constantly on duty, and not half sufficient to guard the laborers." (History of Northfield.)

The Indians made frequent attacks on the New Hampshire frontiers during the summer, particularly in the Connecticut valley. Sometime in July, Daniel Twitchell and John Flint were cutting timber for oars on the hill half a mile east of the town of Walpole. Both were shot dead, one was scalped, the other cut open and his heart taken out and laid on his breast—a threat of continued war.

On the 22d an attack was made on Hinsdell's fort, and two men were killed and two or three captured. In a letter of Col. Hinsdell to Gov. Wentworth, written at this time, he says: "I entreat your Excellency's compassionate regards for myself and the people in these parts, and earnestly pray your Excellency will send us a suitable protection. We are loath to tarry here merely to be killed."

Gov. Wentworth sent a company of twenty-one men to No. 4, under Capt. James Neall, to scout that part of the country, and Massachusetts sent two companies to the posts below. Capt. Neall's company was mustered into the service on the 13th of August, and discharged on the 1st of October.

John Kilburn, the first settler of Walpole, had built his log cabin on the border of the rich intervale a little to the south of Cold river. About noon on the 17th of August, Kilburn and his son John, seventeen years old, and a man named Peak, and his son, were returning home from their work, when they discovered Indians "as thick as grasshoppers" concealed among the bushes. They hastened to the house, fastened the door and prepared for defence. Mrs. Kilburn and the daughter Hetty bravely seconded their efforts, ran the bullets and aided in every way possible.

Their game having escaped and taken refuge in the house, the Indians decided to make their first attack on Col. Bellows, whose house, or fort, was a mile and a half south of Kilburn's. As they crawled up the bank and crossed a foot path east of their house the Kilburns counted 197 of them, and there were as many more lying in ambush near the mouth of Cold river. Col. Bellows had a mill on "Blanchard's brook," a mile east of Kilburn's, where he was at work with his gang of about twenty—some authorities say thirty—men. The Indians waylaid his path. Bellows and his men, each with a bag of meal on his back and his gun in his hand, started for his fort, and soon their dogs gave warning of Indians. Bellows ordered his men to throw down their meal, advance to a rise of ground just in front of them, crawl up the bank, then spring to their feet, give one whoop, and drop into the sweet ferns.

The manoeuvre succeeded admirably. Upon hearing the whoop, the Indians rose in a semicircle across the path, and Bellows' men gave them a volley that laid several of them low, and so disconcerted the whole body that they fled into the bushes without firing a shot. Bellows filed his men off to the south, and reached the fort in safety.

The whole body of Indians then returned to Kilburn's house. One of them, "Philip," who had previously made Kilburn visits of pretended friendship, came forward and called out from behind a tree: "Old John, young John, I know you; come out here. We give ye good quarter." "Quarter!" replied Kilburn in a voice of thunder, "You black rascals, begone or we'll quarter you."

Philip retired, a consultation was held, and then the war-whoop sounded, as if "all the devils in hell had broke loose," and a furious assault began.

"Probably no less than four hundred bullets were lodged in Kilburn's house at the first fire." The enemy were on higher ground, and when the fight was over "the roof was a perfect 'riddle sieve.'" Some fell to butchering cattle, others to destroying hay and grain, "while a shower of bullets kept up one continued pelting against the house." The two men and two boys poured in their

shots with deadly aim. The two women loaded the guns, and the firing was so rapid as to heat the barrels till they were compelled to wait for them to cool. The Indians believed that a much larger force was in the house. The women gathered up the bullets that fell through the roof and ran them over for their own use. All that afternoon the incessant firing was kept up. As the sun went down the savages began to creep away, taking their dead and wounded with them; and when night came on, the brave little garrison was relieved from the strain and left to enjoy the victory it had so gallantly won. Peak was wounded in the thigh, and died five days later from want of surgical care. All the others escaped unhurt.

Thus Keene was covered and protected by these more advanced settlements, and her battles were fought on their ground.

The attacks of the enemy were so frequent and the troops so few that in September the citizens of No. 4, despairing of aid from New Hampshire again petitioned the authorities of Massachusetts for protection, stating that on ten different occasions attacks had been made on that place within the two years preceding. Massachusetts responded and again sent her soldiers for the defence of that town and others in the vicinity, and a guard remained at the fort until it came under the control of the British generals in 1757. With the exception of killing and driving away some cattle, no more outrages were committed in the Connecticut valley during that autumn.

The season of 1755 had been one of great distress to the people of these frontier towns. They were harrassed with the constant danger of attack from the savages, and those dangers frequently culminated in massacre or captivity. At Hinsdale and vicinity eighteen persons had been killed or captured during the season.

"The exertions made for the reduction of Crown Point, not only failed of their object, but provoked the Indians to execute their mischievous designs against the frontiers of New Hampshire; which were now left wholly uncovered, and exposed to their full force. Between the rivers Connecticut and St. Francis there is a safe and easy communication by short carrying places with which they were

perfectly acquainted. The Indians of the latter river, therefore, made frequent incursions, and returned unmolested with their prisoners and booty." (Belknap's History of New Hampshire, vol. 2, page 293.)

At this time Lieut. John Hawks was in command of a line of forts on the western frontier of Massachusetts, from Northfield through Greenfield, Colrain and Charlemont to Hoosack mountain. Indian scouts were seen along the border and it was a time of general alarm.

In the provincial council at Portsmouth, Jan. 2, 1756, was read:

"The Humble Memorial & Petition of Josiah Willard Benjamin Bellows & Isaac Parker (of Claremont) in behalf of the Inhabitants of the Towns of Keene, Swansy, Winchester, Walpole, Putney & New Charles Town all in the Province of New Hampshire, Shews—

"That the Towns aforesaid are Situate on the Frontiers of the Province aforesaid, and tho they are very Considerably Improved So as to Raise all the Necessary Provisions for the Inhabitants, yet are now but Weak handed many of their ablest Men having Listed in the Late Expedition & are Still absent— And by their Situation the Said Inhabitants are Greatly Expos'd to Danger from the Incursions of the French & Indian Enemy from whom there Seems to be a Greater Probability of an Attack now * * * * than at any time Since the Last War. That the Said Inhabitants have at their Own Expense Built Good Forts which would be Sufficient for their Defence with a Competent number of Men which they did & Defended their Settlements while they got their Daily Bread at the Peril of their Lives During the Last War. But as there Seems to be no other Rout for the Enemy to take or at Least not any where they are Invited by an Equal Prospect of Success, As there is no Room to Doubt of their Inclination or Vigilance to Improve Every Opportunity to Annoy us, nor of their Ability to Execute their Schemes for making a Descent upon Our Settlements, which they Look upon with a very Envious Eye, the Said Inhabitants Cant but Apprehend their Danger Greater now than Ever —This Fear is Quicken'd also by the Remembrance of their Great Sufferings During the Last War & which they now begin to feel again with others of the Same kind Coming upon them with Double Weight—For besides the Loss of many Lives wch they then Sustained, it is not a most uncomfortable Situation to be kept always in fear of being Ambushed to have Life Continually hang in Suspence &

Doubt, from those who Lye in Wait to Destroy—to fear being Suddenly Dispatched or Captivated by a Barbarous Enemy when about Business in the Secure Retreat they have—that the very Water they use is Purchased with the hazzard of their Blood as well as their Bread at the Peril of their Lives and to have no Prospect of Help nor Asylum to fly to for Safety This State of Life Every One on the Least Attention will See is most Pittiable—* * * * That the Said Inhabitants Weary of Such a Precarious Condition will not Endure it much Longer but Will & must Quit their Habitations tho' they now begin to be Pleasant (in other Respects) as Well as Profitable yet they had Rather part with all than Risque their Lives in the manner aforesaid * * * * But whether this will be for the Public Good—whether the Advantage Arising to the Province by Maintaining & Supporting these Settlements will Countervail the Charge is what your Petitioners would Humbly Suggest to be Considered And which Way Soever it Shall be Determined they Pray they may have an Explicit & Speedy Answer That they may not be kept in Expectation till they have no Way of Escape—till they are either Killd Captivated or have their Substance Destroyed And as they Apprehend the Danger Great wch is Impending they Pray Your Speedy & wise Resolution upon the Premises and they Shall as in Duty Bound Ever Pray &c—

Josiah Willard
Benj^{a} Bellows
Isaac Parker

"In Council Jan^{ry} 2^{d} 1756 read & recommend & Sent Down to the Honble ye Assembly

Theodore Atkinson Sec^{ry}"

(State Papers, vol. 18, page 434.)

Apparently no action was taken upon this petition. On the 7th of June the Indians again appeared at Winchester and captured Josiah Foster, his wife and two children. On the 18th they visited Charlestown and killed Lieut. Moses Willard and wounded his son. They also appeared at Hinsdale, and were discovered in ambush by Zebulon Stebbins and Reuben Wright, who gave the alarm and prevented the capture of several persons for whom they were lying in wait. Wright was wounded, but both he and Stebbins escaped.

During the winter of 1756–7, a company of rangers, numbering fifty-five men, under Capt. John Burk, was

stationed at Hinsdell's fort by the authorities of Massachusetts. No incursions were made until the 20th of April, when about seventy French and Indians came to No. 4, captured Dea. Thomas Adams, David Farnsworth, Samson Colefax, Thomas Robbins, and Asa Spofford and took them to Canada. Only Farnsworth and Robbins returned.

Early in March of this year another regiment of 500 men was raised by New Hampshire to continue outside operations against the French. Men from the neighboring towns joined this regiment, but none from Keene, so far as appears. One battalion under Lt. Col. John Goffe, of Bedford, had its rendezvous at No. 4; but it arrived too late to prevent the outrage committed there on the 20th of April, and after halting a few days at that post marched to Albany and thence to Fort William Henry. This force was replaced at No. 4 by a regiment of 500 men from Connecticut under Col. Whiting. These troops were active and ranged the woods as far as Lake Champlain.

Lord Loudon, now commander-in-chief of the English forces, took command of the expedition to Halifax, leaving the cowardly and inefficient Gen. Webb in command before Crown Point, who with 4,000 men lay timidly in his camp, and allowed Montcalm, with a force scarcely superior to his own, to capture Fort William Henry, including the garrison of 2,200 men. After the surrender the Indian allies of the French, in spite of Montcalm's orders to the contrary, massacred many of the prisoners, including 80 of the New Hampshire battalion of 200 men.

The settlers were seized with consternation and dismay. Webb was terror-stricken and sent pressing appeals for help, and New Hampshire immediately raised another battalion of 250 under Col. Thomas Tash of Durham. After his success, however, Gen. Montcalm withdrew to Canada, and Col. Tash with his battalion was stationed at No. 4, replacing the Connecticut troops, who marched to Fort Edward.

During these years of the war the annual town meetings of Keene had been held on the first Tuesday in March in each year as required by the charter, and at each,

money had been raised for the Rev. Mr. Carpenter's salary and other expenses. Before the meetinghouse was completed these meetings were held at private houses—that of 1755 at Joseph Ellis's, and that of 1756, at Nathan Blake's. That of 1757 was opened at the fort and adjourned to the house of Joseph Ellis. "Voted to Build a Bridge Over the River at the Place called Dales Fordway."[1] Isaac Clark, Lieut. Ephraim Dorman, Ensign William Smeed, Ebenezer Nims, Nathan Blake and Dea. David Foster were chosen a committee to build the bridge, and "Seventy Pounds New Tenor" were voted to defray the expense.

The annual meeting of 1758 was held "at the House of Ser. Ebenezer Nims in the Fort." "One Hundred and Thirty Pounds New Tenor" were raised for the support of the gospel for the year—showing that one dollar of specie was worth five of the paper currency of that time, his salary being twenty-six pounds, silver money.

Article 7 of the warrant, "To see if they will do anything further toward finishing the meetinghouse," was dismissed. The hardships and dangers of the war were so great, the production of crops so restricted, and money so depreciated that real poverty was upon the settlers with all its privations and discouragements. They suffered at times from want of sufficient food and clothing; and, rigidly and devoutly pious as most of them were, they could not spare the money to complete their church edifice.

All the military expeditions of the English in this country in 1757 had failed, and again New Hampshire raised her quota of 800 men for the three planned for 1758. Of those troops one hundred men were detailed for garrison duty at No. 4. During the summer of this year, the Indians continued their incursions on the frontier towns. "At Hinsdale, they killed Capt. Moore, and his son, took his family, and burned his house."[2] At No. 4 they killed Asahel Stebbins, took Mrs. Stebbins and Isaac Parker prisoners, and slaughtered a large number of cattle. The cattle of the frontiersmen, roaming in the woods, often served to furnish provision for the skulking savage. Capt.

[1] The first bridge at what are now Faulkner & Colony's mills.
[2] Belknap's History of New Hampshire, vol. 2, page 302.

John Burk with his company of rangers guarded the lower towns in the Connecticut valley. John Hawks was now a major, commanded troops in western Massachusetts and in the campaign against Ticonderoga; and Capt. Isaac Wyman, who afterwards came to Keene, had commanded at Fort Massachusetts in 1755-7, and continued to hold the same position.

The disastrous defeat of Gen. Abercrombie before Ticonderoga had caused great depression in the hearts of the people, but their hopes revived when Gen. Amherst, soon after his success at Louisburg, arrived at Boston with six veteran regiments and pressed on through the woods to Albany and took command of the army before Ticonderoga. It was too late for offensive operations that fall, but the confidence of the people was restored, particularly when, in November, Gen. Forbes took Fort Duquesne, and changed its name to Pittsburg, in honor of William Pitt, whose vigorous war policy had brought success to the British arms.

During the winter No. 4 was garrisoned by 100 regular troops from the army, under Capt. Cruikshanks, but the Indians made no incursions.

The spring of 1759 opened with a still more vigorous prosecution of the war Commanders of high rank who had failed to win victories were superseded by young, ambitious officers of true military ability. Gen. Amherst had replaced the weak and pompous Abercrombie; Gen. James Wolfe, then but thirty-two years old, was sent to operate against Quebec; and Gen. Prideaux was directed to seize the forts at Niagara and then descend the St. Lawrence river and capture Montreal.

Pitt made a personal appeal to Gov. Wentworth for troops and supplies, and New Hampshire responded with a regiment of 1,000 men under Col. Zaccheus Lovewell of Dunstable. The veteran John Goffe was its lieutenant colonel. Other towns in this vicinity sent their quotas, and no doubt Keene furnished its proportion, but nearly all the rolls of that regiment have been lost. Its rendezvous was at Dunstable, and it marched thence via Worcester to Springfield, where it was mustered into the

British service. From Springfield it marched to Albany and thence to Oswego and Niagara.

Early in May the 100 regular troops were withdrawn from No. 4 to join the army of Gen. Amherst, and were replaced by an equal number of Massachusetts troops sent up from Deerfield under Capt. Elijah Smith.

About the first of August the French dismantled and abandoned the fortresses at Ticonderoga and Crown Point, which had been for nearly thirty years their base of operations against the New England settlements, and they were immediately occupied by Gen. Amherst. This ended those raids on our frontiers which had brought such barbarous atrocities upon our people.

Wolfe and Montcalm met on the plains of Abraham on the 12th of September, and both fell. Quebec was surrendered to the English on the 18th.

But there was still one other post that had been the rendezvous of those who had committed the most inhuman barbarities on the English settlers. This was the village of the St. Francis Indians at the junction of the St. Francis river with the St. Lawrence. From that point scores of raiding parties had been fitted out, and to that village they had returned with their prisoners, scalps and booty, received their bounties from the French, divided their plunder, and danced their war-dances while torturing their victims. It was determined to wipe that place out of existence, and chastise its brutal inhabitants.

On the 13th of September, Gen. Amherst despatched Major Rogers with 200 men, most of them his New Hampshire rangers, with orders to destroy that village "in such a manner as shall most effectually disgrace and injure the enemy," but to spare women and children.

The story of that perilous expedition is a thrilling one, but is too long for insertion here. No raid of the savages on the white settlers, in any war, was more frightful and bloody, or fell upon the victims with a more complete surprise. Two hundred Indians were slain, twenty women and children taken prisoners, and the village totally destroyed by fire. Pursued by a superior force, the rangers made a hasty and disastrous retreat. Nearly one-half their

number died from fatigue, exposure and starvation, or were slain by the infuriated enemy. The remainder reached No. 4 in a starving condition sometime in October.

All the great expeditions planned by Pitt for this year's campaign had been successful. With Forbes at Pittsburg, Johnson at Niagara, Amherst at Crown Point and Ticonderoga, and Wolfe's army at Quebec, all pushing the enemy to the wall, the Indians had enough to do to aid their allies in defence, and had no time for ravages. Consequently the settlements in this region had been left in peace through the season of 1759, although not free from fear of the lurking foe.

Having Ticonderoga and Crown Point in our possession, these settlements were covered by our armies there, and in October, the troops stationed at the several posts on the frontier, except Forts Dummer and No. 4, were withdrawn.

Instead of following up his advantage and pushing forward and seizing Montreal, which he might easily have done, and which would have insured possession of what he had already gained, Gen. Amherst spent the autumn in building fortifications and preparing the country about Lake George for permanent occupation by the English. He detailed Lt. Col. John Hawks, with axemen, and a guard of rangers who were also axemen, under Capt. John Stark, to cut a road through the forest from Crown Point towards No. 4. Starting from Crown Point on the 26th of October, and following the old Indian trail—the same that Hawks had traversed at least twice before, in his exchange of Raimbault for Nathan Blake—they opened the road across the country to Otter creek, and thence up that stream and over the mountains; and before winter set in they had the work completed to within twenty-six miles of No. 4.

In the spring of 1760, New Hampshire raised another regiment of 800 men under the veteran Col. John Goffe. Its rendezvous was at Litchfield, whence it marched through Milford, Peterboro and Keene to No. 4. They found only a bridle path from Merrimac to Keene, but they made it a comfortable road. Before they reached this vicinity, the

lurking savages, without much other demonstration, had carried off Joseph Willard, his wife and five children from their homestead near No. 4. An infant, Samuel, being burdensome, they took it aside on the second day out and beat out its brains against a tree. No other outrage was committed, and very few traces of Indians were found.

Col. Goffe with his regiment passed through Keene about the 1st of June. One of his soldiers died here, and one was left sick. From Keene, he marched by the way of Great Meadows to No. 4, where he made his headquarters for some time. Throwing his regiment across the Connecticut at Wentworth's ferry, two miles above the fort, he set his men to the work of opening a road to the west to meet the one cut the year before by Lt. Col. Hawks. It cost them forty-four days' time to clear a road over those twenty-six miles, but they performed the work so thoroughly that they transported their ammunition, baggage and supplies to the foot of the Green mountains in wagons,[1] following up the north bank of Black river through the present towns of Cavendish and Ludlow. From there they used pack horses and horse-barrows. They took with them for the army at Crown Point a large drove of cattle which had been collected at No. 4, and reached their destination in time to join the army of Gen. Haviland, then preparing to advance on Montreal. The regiment was present at the reduction of Isle Au Noix, St. Johns, Chambler and Montreal—September 8—which gave the English all Canada and closed the war.

The troops returned home and were discharged in November. Prisoners were released and there was great rejoicing. The capture of the Willard family, in the spring, was the last incursion of the Indians into this county, and the war-whoop of the savage has never since been heard in this part of the country. The Willards were taken to Montreal, but returned after the capitulation of that city.

After fifteen years of almost constant terror from the savages, the country was at peace, and the brave pioneers could cultivate their lands without fear of butchery for themselves or their families. Those fifteen years had

[1] Belknap's History of New Hampshire, vol. 2, page 305, note.

completely roused the military spirit of the people, had trained them all in the arts of war, had made veteran soldiers of all the able bodied men in the country, and prepared them for the Revolutionary struggle which was to come fifteen years later.

No other province had furnished so many men for this war in proportion to the number of inhabitants as New Hampshire. None had been more prompt to fill its quotas, and none had furnished hardier, more skillful, or more effective antagonists of the wily savage. Five thousand men had been sent into the armies by this small province of only about 40,000 inhabitants, and great had been the losses and the sufferings of the people.

Of the ten regiments of militia in New Hampshire at this time, the 6th covered all this part of the province and was commanded by Col. Josiah Willard, with Benjamin Bellows of Walpole lieutenant colonel; and Col. Willard[1] continued in command until 1775.

The annual town meeting in 1759, held "at the house of Ensign William Smeed in the fort," again voted to dismiss the article relating to finishing the meetinghouse, but the salary of the minister was raised as usual.

No records of proprietors' meetings are found after that of Dec. 24, 1754, until 1759. On the 29th of May in that year "A legal meeting of the proprietors" was held at the house of Joseph Ellis, David Nims, moderator. Dea. David Foster was then proprietors' clerk.

"Voted upon the Tenth article to Grant to Messieurs David Belden Joshua Graves & Elisha Scott and Abner Graves the Liberty to turn the waters of the Stream known by the Name of the East Branch in the most Convenient Place for the use of a Saw-Mill and Corn-Mill and Shall have the Liberty and Priviledge of Said Stream so much as to Support sd Mills so long and upon these Conditions Hereafter Named viz That they will in the Space of two years Time Build and fit a good Saw Mill and Corn Mill and that the Inhabitants and Residents of the Town of Keene Shall have as good Priviledge both in Sawing and Grinding as the Inhabitants of Swanzey Passible Loggs to be Saw'd for the value of the one half of the Boards from Time to Time and

[1] The adjutant general's reports put Col. Willard down as of Keene, but he lived at Winchester. His son, Capt. Josiah Willard, came here to live about 1762.

at all Times and when the above Said Gentlemen Shall Cease or Neglect to keep Mills there in good Repair to answer the Necessity of this Township for Sawing and Grinding then sd Priviledge to Return to this Propriety again."

This was the time when the waters of the East branch were turned from their natural channel below South Keene and diverted to the South branch, and the water power at Swanzey Factory was created.

On the 28th of August, a town meeting was held for the first time in the new meetinghouse, Capt. Michael Metcalf, moderator—the meetinghouse having been so far finished as to be used for that purpose—but on the 30th of January following a town meeting was held at the house of Joseph Ellis, which voted to raise ten pounds sterling money towards finishing the meetinghouse, and Gideon Ellis, Ebenezer Nims and Eleazar Sanger were chosen a committee to go on with that work.

The annual meeting of 1760, chose Dea. David Foster, town clerk. David Nims had held that position since the organization of the town.

On article third: "Voted that Eaighty Seven Spanish Mild Dollars be asses'd on Pools and Rateable Estates in this Town for the Support of the Gospel in this Place for the Present year." It was also voted to build a pound, thirty-six feet square, in front of house lots No. 28 and 29—the two lots next south of the present railroad, on the west side of Main street.

On the 29th of July, the town "Voted Not to Joyn with the People of Swanzey in Maintaining and Carrying on the worship and Ordinances of God," and that connection ceased.

Another meeting, on the 25th of September, Capt. Michael Metcalf, moderator: "Voted to hire a Suitable Person to Preach the Gospel in this Town for the space of Two Months"—and chose Lieut. Seth Heaton, Ebenezer Clark and Dr. Obadiah Blake a committee for that purpose.

The road along the eastern base of West mountain was laid out this year by the selectmen.

CHAPTER V

HABITS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDIANS.

When the white settlers first came to this region they found many of the intervale lands along the Connecticut river and its branches denuded of trees and showing unmistakable signs of having been cultivated. All the New England tribes of Indians cultivated the land more or less, and in this respect were superior to those in some other parts of the country. They killed the trees on those intervale lands with fire, or by girdling, planted their corn, cultivated and gathered their crop, and sometimes preserved it on the ear in excavations made in dry places in the ground and covered with poles and bark.

Upon the arrival of the Pilgrims on these shores one of their first discoveries was that of corn, or maize, which had been raised by the Indians and preserved in this way; and when they landed they found cornfields, the crop gathered but the stalks still standing.

The Indians raised corn on the meadows of the Connecticut river and its branches, and sometimes sold to the whites.

"The spring of 1637 was so occupied by the English settlers at Windsor, Hartford and Weathersfield in preparing for and carrying on the war with the Pequots, that they failed to plant the requisite amount of corn and wheat. The following winter proving unusually long and severe, their provisions were wholly exhausted. On the first opening of spring (1638), a deputation was sent up to Agawam, where they failed to get supplies, and then up the river to Pocumtuck (Deerfield), where they found plenty of corn, and purchased enough of the Indians to load a fleet of fifty canoes, which were taken down the river by the natives, and the corn delivered at the towns designated." (Temple & Sheldon.)

To the Indians we are also indebted for the squash, which grew luxuriantly on the rich soils of these valleys; and for the Seivia bean and some other vegetables. They

had kettles of soapstone in which they boiled vegetables, and they lived on these and on their corn, berries, nuts and roots; and on fish and game, which they cooked on hot coals, or held in the fire on sticks, and sometimes ate raw. Fish and meat were sometimes preserved by drying and smoking. They parched their corn, and sometimes ground it between stones, and made "samp" and other mixtures with the meal, but "used no salt, spice or bread."

Chestnut groves were carefully preserved from fires, and furnished a valuable addition to their diet. Their supply of food was always precarious. Sometimes they would be without for days; and then, when an abundance was obtained, they would gorge themselves, and imitate voracious animals by sleeping it off. They had no beggars or children unprovided for; and no domestic animals except dogs, and but few of those.

Water was their only drink, and intoxication was unknown to them until the whites sold them liquor and made demons of them with their "fire-water." But they raised tobacco, and were inveterate smokers, using pipes which they made of soapstone, brierwood and other materials with considerable skill.

Their tools were made of sharp, hard stones, fastened with rawhide on wooden handles, and their spears and arrows were pointed in the same way—with flint, quartz or jasper. They cultivated the land with wooden mattocks, and sometimes with sharp bones fastened on sticks, and they were skilled in the manufacture of birch bark canoes, baskets, snowshoes, and many other articles, and in tanning the skins of animals with the hair on, with which they clothed themselves in winter.

For sewing they used the sinews of the deer and other animals, and the fibre of wild hemp, dogbane, and the inner bark of the "basswood" and other kinds of trees, with thorns, fishbones, or sharp sticks in place of needles or awls. They caught fish in nets made of those fibres; and by holding a torch over the water at night, when the curiosity of the larger fish would bring them to the surface to be struck by the Indian's spear.

Their skill in hunting was marvelous, taught by that

most importunate of teachers, necessity. One of their contrivances was to bend a sapling to the ground, and with thongs and deftly laid cords to form a trap for catching deer and other animals. Seth Fields of Northfield had his old mare caught in such a snare, and a friendly Indian came running to tell him that his "squaw horse" was caught in a "yank-up."

Their weapons were bows and arrows, spears and tomahawks—small stone axes. Later, these last were replaced by hatchets bought of the whites.

Their fortifications were stockades, in some cases very firm and strong, and covering many acres of ground. On the left bank of the Ashuelot river, just below the south line of Keene, at the "sand bank" near Sawyer's Crossing, there are evidences that there was once an Indian village, or at least a large and somewhat permanent encampment, inclosed with one of these stockades. It covered several acres of ground, and the irregular outlines of a fortification are still to be seen; but they will soon be obliterated by the constantly drifting sand. The quantities of chippings and fragments of flint and quartz that have been found there make it evident that arrow and spear heads and other implements were manufactured there in large numbers from those hard stones, brought from a distance. Among the relics found there by George A. Wheelock, Hiram Blake, F. G. Pratt, and others, which have been preserved by the people of Swanzey, are specimens of Indian pottery; ten arrow heads of flint and quartz; three of another kind of hard stone, fragments of which are scattered about there; a well finished stone-chisel six inches long; a gouge three and one-half inches long; a stone pestle fourteen and one-half inches long of a hard grey stone; and many other specimens of Indian manufacture. Some of these are preserved in the Keene natural history rooms.

Mr. Blake says: "The sand bank, so called, is evidently the site of an Indian village, and bears strong evidence of having been fortified. A dark line of earth mixed with ashes and charcoal extends nearly around an enclosure of several acres. This may have been the line of palisades or

row of stakes stuck in the ground for the purpose of defence. The sand has drifted so much, of late years, that the line is very indistinct or nearly gone. Old residents of the locality state that when they were boys Indian relics were readily picked up on the spot; but few of them were preserved. The large quantity of chippings now found there, as well as occasional pieces of pottery, indicate that these implements of war and domestic economy were made on the spot, and that for a time it was a permanent stopping place for the Indians."

Indian graves have been discovered in that vicinity, the skeletons found, as was almost invariably the case in all parts of the country, in a sitting posture, facing east. It is believed by those who have given the matter some study that there was an Indian burying place of considerable extent on what is known as the "Kate Tyler" farm, a mile and a quarter from the Square, on Court street, between the highway and the river. In excavating for the cellar of the house built there by Henry M. Darling, in 1882, the skeletons of six grown persons and one child were found, in a sitting posture, facing east, and near each other. They were pronounced by well informed persons to be skeletons of Indians. They were in a gravelly knoll or mound, the gravel being of a different kind from the earth around it, and apparently brought there to cover the bodies. No relics or implements of any kind were found buried with the bodies. Four of the skeletons were preserved, though none is perfect, and may be seen in the rooms of the Keene Natural History Society. Other skeletons have also been found in various places. Many stone axes, hatchets, chisels and arrow and spear heads have been found in various places in town. The stone pestle fourteen and one-half inches long mentioned above was found near the Swanzey line, and many years ago a similar one seventeen inches long was found by Capt. Aaron Hall.

In those early days, salmon ran up the Connecticut river and all its larger branches, and the Indians undoubtedly had a "salmon dam" in the Ashuelot near the "sand bank" mentioned above. In 1888, Mr. George A. Wheelock wrote for the New England Observer:

"The low water in the Ashuelot, occasioned by the repairs at the Swanzey mill, has exposed the old traditional Indian dam two miles above. Indians were lazy, and this work of theirs is the more surprising on this account; perhaps there is nothing like it in the state. The river at this point is now almost a rapid and strewn with boulders for thirty rods or so. It is less than a hundred feet wide, but the dam being in the shape of a harrow pointing down stream is more than that distance. By skilful stepping it is possible to pass the point of the harrow, the apex of the dam, and somewhat farther. It is made of stones, such as a man could lift, picked up in the stream above. It varies from six to twelve feet in thickness, according to the depth of the water. It looks like a tumble down wall mixed with gravel, but it must have caused weeks of labor. It is natural to suppose that the dam was made to aid in fishing for salmon with nets and spears. Below the dam is a flat boulder reached by stepping stones. Here stood the young brave and watched the silver-bellied salmon, and struck at him with his flint-pointed spear. Near by the old dam lives Jonas L. Moore. Here lived his father and grandfather before him. For one hundred and thirty years this has been called the Indian dam. Mr. Moore's father, in his boyhood, used to cross the river on the wall. The reason it is now so unknown is because the eel grass in the back water of the pond covers and conceals it. The *Observer's* representative was shown a beautiful spear point of Twin mountain flint. The elder Moore dug up a half peck of arrow and spearheads, all in one pocket. They were carelessly left on a stump and lost years ago. Some twenty Indian fire-places have been ploughed up here. These were simply circles in the middle of the wigwam, paved with stones from the river. The Swanzey Antiquarian Society should have a drawing of this dam showing the two eastern wings and the boulder."

The Indian was too proud and too lazy to labor with his hands or perform any menial service unless it was in building fortifications or wigwams, or preparing for war or the chase, or otherwise procuring food, as in building the salmon dam, mentioned above. But he willingly submitted to the necessity of carrying heavy burdens in war. The equipment of Raimbault's party of eight savages that went with him to Northfield in 1748, after he had been exchanged, as given by the Canadian authorities who provided them, was: "80 muskets; 80 breechclouts; 80 pairs mittens; 100 deerskins; 8 lbs. vermillion; 80 woodcutters'

knives; 80 lbs. powder; 80 lbs. ball; 80 lbs. lead shot; 80 collars for carrying; 80 awls; 80 tomahawks; 400 flints; 80 powder horns; 100 needles; 3 lbs. thread; 80 war clubs; 8 axes; 4 pairs scissors; 80 lbs. tobacco; 8 iron cooking pots; 8 canoes, and 13 days' provisions. This force made directly for the Connecticut valley; and took position on the highlands to the eastward of Fort Dummer." This was the party that had the fight with Sergt. Taylor on the 14th of July near Fort Dummer.

The squaws planted, gathered and preserved the crops, prepared the food, and with the above exceptions, bore the burdens and performed all the drudgery of life. But the rights of women were recognized in many ways. They could hold property by descent, and lands in the Connecticut valley were sold to the whites, and deeds given, by women who owned those lands by inheritance. In some cases their sachems were females, and in such cases their bands were led by their most powerful warriors. One of the tribes in eastern Massachusetts had a squaw for chief, the widow of Nanepashemet who lived near Lake Mystic in Medford. In some tribes squaws of recognized position were admitted to their councils. Awashauks, the powerful squaw of Sogkonate, and the unfortunate Queen Weetamoo, have already been mentioned. The latter was a sister-in-law and confederate of King Philip, and attended his court here in the Connecticut valley; was "squaw sachem of Pocasset and was counted as potent a prince as any round about her." She married Wamsutta, and at his death, Quinnapin, a powerful chief of the royal blood of the Narragansetts. She had two maids, one of whom was Mrs. Mary Rowlandson, the captive wife of the minister of Lancaster. She was proud and severe and spent as much time each day in dressing as any of the gentry, powdered her hair, painted her face, and wore ear-rings, necklaces, bracelets, girdles, red stockings and white shoes.

The Indians of these valleys not only accorded rights to women, but often treated them with a rude gallantry, especially white women, and in the early days "a white woman in captivity was never known to be insulted by an Indian."

When they captured the Johnson family at No. 4, in August, 1754—taking Mr. Johnson, his wife, three children, Miss Merriam Willard and two men—the surprise was complete, but no one was harmed. The next day Mrs. Johnson was delivered of a daughter, who, from the circumstances of her birth, was named Captive. The Indians halted one day on the mother's account, and the next day resumed their march, carrying her on a litter, which they made for the purpose, and afterward put her on horseback. "On their march they were distressed for provisions; and killed the horse for food; the infant was nourished, by sucking pieces of its flesh."[1] There was a similar case of birth the second day out, and of carrying mother and child on a litter, at the capture of Fort Massachusetts in 1746, when Sergt. John Hawks of Upper Ashuelot was in command.

The ferocity of the Indians towards the whites was caused chiefly, without doubt, by the barbarous and perfidious manner in which they were treated from the first by the English. The Dutch settlers along the Hudson, and the French in Canada, treated them with kindness and lived with them in peace; and the Indians generally were friendly until they had learned to distrust the whites. The great chiefs Massasoit in Massachusetts and Passaconaway in New Hampshire were strong and faithful friends of the whites.

Our sympathies are naturally aroused for the brave pioneers and their families who suffered so much in their frightful experiences, and feelings of horror are excited at the barbarous treatment they received from the Indians. But we must not forget that that treatment was chiefly in retaliation for the cruel and perfidious manner in which some of the whites had treated those untaught, wild men of the forest. In his uncorrupted state the Indian knew nothing of duplicity, except his natural, animal instinct of wiliness in war. He was taught that by the whites. "The very words that signify lying, treachery, dissimulation, avarice, detraction and pardon were never heard of." (Buchanan's North American Indians.) Those are the terms

[1] Belknap's History of New Hampshire, vol. 2, pages 288-9.

and vices of civilization. With all their naturally warlike disposition, their cunning in strategy, and even their revengful proclivities, the Indians in their natural state were governed largely by instinctive feelings of honor and justice.

"Over the track of the Concord and Northern railroad are daily seen running (1853) three Powerful engines, named Passaconaway, Wonalanset and Tohanto—names of three noble chiefs of the Pennacooks—tried friends of the English in prosperity and in adversity—one of them a bold advocate of temperance, against lawless traffickers in Rum." (Bouton's History of Concord.)

In the old French war: "A single instance of moderation deserves remembrance. An Indian had surprised a man at Ashuelot; the man asked for quarter, and it was granted; whilst the Indian was preparing to bind him, he seized the Indian's gun, and shot him in one arm. The Indian, however, secured him; but took no other revenge than, with a kick, to say, 'You dog, how could you treat me so.' The gentleman from whom this information came, has frequently heard the story both from the captive and the captor." (Belknap's History of New Hampshire, vol. 2, page 255.)

The same author tells us that "the universal testimony of the captives in that war who survived and returned was in favor of the humanity of their captors. When feeble, they assisted them in traveling; and in cases of distress from want of provisions, they shared with them an equal proportion."

"The Indian never makes a show of civility except when prompted by genuine feeling. It is not the custom of any uncorrupted Indian to repeat a request, or an offer of civility or courtesy. If declined, they believe it is done in perfect sincerity and good faith, and that it would be rudeness to ask them to change their determination. They are seldom guilty of duplicity. They never interrupt those who are conversing with them, but wait till they have finished." (Buchanan's North American Indians, page 14.)

We must remember also that the Indians had the prior right to this country by occupancy, and in that sense were the owners of the land; and that the whites were intruders who persistently forced them back and away from their familiar haunts—"the hunting grounds of their fathers"—those hills and valleys and streams for which they had the natural feeling of love for one's home and country. In most cases in New England the whites did

not buy the lands of them, or if they did, it was at such ridiculously low prices that the red man soon discovered that he had been cheated and was naturally exasperated. Five thousand acres of that fine intervale land at West Springfield, Mass., was bought of the Indians by a tailor who sold the same tract to a carpenter for a wheelbarrow.

The motive for the attack on No. 4, in August, 1754, was, as stated by the Indians to their captive, James Johnson, "because the English had settled down upon lands there which they had not purchased; and that they intended next spring to drive the English on Connecticut river so far as Deerfield." (Johnson's Declaration, Provincial Papers, vol. 6, page 330.)

The Indians had an indefinite belief in a future existence, and buried with their dead the arms and implements of war or of the chase, and such provisions as they supposed would be needed on the journey to the "happy hunting grounds." Sometimes the bodies were placed on scaffolds of the branches of trees, but were more usually buried, and the grave was often surrounded with a light stockade; and for six months the women would go there three times a day to weep. "If a mother lost her babe, she would cover it with bark, and envelop it anxiously in the softest beaver-skins; at the burial place, she would put by its side its cradle, its beads, and its rattles; and as a last service of maternal love, would draw milk from her bosom in a cup of bark, and burn it in the fire, that her infant might still find nourishment on its solitary journey to the land of shades." (Bancroft's History of The United States, vol. 2, page 442.)

CHAPTER VI.

TOWN AFFAIRS.

1760—1774.

The warrants for town meetings at this period were headed "Province of New Hampshire," and issued "In His Majesty's Name;" and this form was used until 1771.

One article in the warrant for a town meeting held December 31, 1760, was "To see if the Town will agree to give a gentleman a Call in order to settle in the ministry among us." No record of that meeting has been found, or of any other until that of March 26, 1761, when it was "Voted to add Ten Pounds Sterling money of Great Brittain to the Worthy Mr. Clement Sumner to the sum that was voted to him February ye Sixteenth last past and also a Sixty fourth Part of this Township as mentioned in Our Royal Charter to the first Setled Gospel Minister Provided he shall settle among us."

From this it appears that Mr. Sumner had been called at a previous meeting in February and "His salary was fixed at thirty-five pounds sterling and his firewood, with an annual increase of one pound ten shillings sterling, until fifteen pounds should be added." (Annals, page 35.)

April 15, 1761, the town "Voted Ten Pounds Sterling Money of Great Brittain to be added To Mr. Clement Sumners Sallary and the Whole Sallary to be stated on Commodities as they be now and so from year to year in case that Mr. Sumner Should Except our call; Commodities as they be now wheat at 3/2½ pr Bushel sterling pork at 3^{d} pr pound Beef at 2^{d} p^{r} pound Indian corn at 1/8[1] pence pr Bushel Rye at 2/6 per Bushel Labour in the Summer 2/ster pr Day." This was rescinded in November of the following year, upon the complaint of Mr. Sumner that the article of beef had been stated above the market price.[2]

[1] One shilling, eight pence. The diagonal mark / stood for shillings.

[2] The records of this meeting are signed by Ephraim Dorman, town clerk, showing that he must have been elected at the annual meeting in March.

Mr. Sumner accepted the call in a letter dated April 27, which is recorded in the town books, page 23, old records; and he was ordained on the 11th of June. The church was reorganized at that time, with fourteen male members—having been without a pastor for a year and eight months—and two years later Dr. Obadiah Blake was chosen one of the deacons.

Mr. Amos Foster, who died March 2, 1760, had bequeathed one-half his estate to the town. On the 31st of August, the town voted that Mr. Sumner's settlement and salary should be paid out of that legacy; but it was several years before the land could be sold and the money collected. The same meeting "Voted to give the Sum of Twelve Pounds Lawfull money of the Massachusetts Bay to Doct^{r} Obadiah Blake and to Doct^{r} Thomas Frink For their Trouble and Charge in Providing for the Council at Mr. Sumners Ordination." (Dr. Frink had recently come to town and was keeping tavern next below where Capt. Isaac Wyman built the next year.)

Sept. 28 the town "Voted to build a house for Sick Soldiers;" and "Voted Fifteen Pounds Sterling Toward Finishing the meeting House."

The selectmen this year laid out the road afterwards called Prison street, "beginning at the North end of the Street by the Causeway by the Crotch of the Roads that Lead to ash Swamp and up to the Old Saw mill then running by Mr. David Nims' to the North Side of David Morses 100 acres Eight Rods wide thence Four Rods wide up the Old Road through the Old mill yard," etc. The "causeway" at the north end of the original Main street was a little north of the present railroad tracks; David Nims lived where Charles Wright 2d now does; and the old road to the saw mill ran from the causeway much farther east, curving nearly to Beaver brook; and this new road entered it about opposite our present jail, forming our present Washington street.

What was then called the new road to Westmoreland —now the "old road"—was also laid out that year: "beginning at Jesse Clarks [since known as the Ingersoll place at old West Keene] and running up past the Ellis

and Foster farms." Previous to that the road to Westmoreland was the old one that leaves the present Chesterfield road just beyond the railroad arch. That was sometimes called the glebe road, as it ran through or near the Westmoreland glebe.

A proprietors' meeting on the 23d of February was called at the meetinghouse, but adjourned to the house of Nathan Blake:

"Voted upon the Fourth article that that neck of Comon Land where Isaac Clark and Amos Foster were buried be appropriated and Set apart for a burying Place for this Town."[1]

"Voted on the 5th article that the Lots of Land Laid out to the Revd Mr Clement Sumner by a Comtee Chosen for that Purpose be Recorded and made Sure to him—viz House Lots No 28-29 eight acre Lot of Meadow Land (54) Thirty acre Lot (50) Ten acre Lot of Meadow Land (23) a Hundred acre Lot to House Lot (29) also a five acre Lot of Meadow to the same House Lot."

"Voted on the Sixth article that the Proprs will Lay out Sixty acres of Upland to Each Right in this Township and that they will Proceed in the following manner viz that Each Propr shall have Liberty to lay out Ten acres or Less of the same joining their Lands which they have already Laid out where there are Strips of Common Land and that they may Lay the same in Several Pieces not hurting the Common Land or their Neighbours Priviledge and where there is Strips of Common Land Lying between two mens Land they Shall Divide the same according to their Interest in the Common Rights—and the Remainder of the above said Sixty acres which shall not be Laid out in Strips of Common Land they will Proceed in the Following manner viz that they will Draw Lots for Choice and he who Draws the first Lot Shall make his Choice or Pitch on the first Day of September next Ensuing the Date hereof and he who Draws the Second Lot the Second Day and so Giving Every man his Day according to his Draught from the first of September Next Until they shall go thro the whole Sabbath Days Excepted and that The Comtee appointed to Lay out said Land shall Proceed in the Following method Namely to Lay out the Lots in good Shape and Form and not Leave Slips of Land between Lot & Lot, and that they Leave

[1] On a knoll north of the road leading to West mountain, near Ash Swamp brook, southwest of Henry O. Spaulding's house. The inscription on Mr. Foster's gravestone is still legible, though nearly obliterated. This was the second burying-place used in town, the first being southwest of the first meetinghouse.

Land for Roads in Every Lot—and if any man Shall not Lay out his Lot in his Day nor bring in his Pitch or Choice in writing to David Foster by the Day then he shall not Lay out his Lot till the time be Expired for Laying out Each mans Draught or Pitch in Said Division and if any man shall not Lay out his Lot in Six Days after he made his Pitch it Shall not be Laid out to hinder any other man of his Pitch. Chose Lieu^{t} Ephraim Dorman Joseph Ellis Joseph Blake Simeon Clark Benjn Hall David Foster and Nathan Blake a Com^{tee} to Lay out said Lots."

The names of the original proprietors with the numbers of their house lots in regular order, and the numbers of their pitches in this division then follows.

The annual town meeting in 1762 was opened at the meetinghouse, chose "Deacon David Foster Moderator" and immediately adjourned to the house (tavern) of Thomas Frink, Esq. A full list of town officers was elected, including Michael Metcalf, Jr., "Clark of the market,"[1] and "Michael Metcalf and Dr. Obadiah Blake Deer Reifs."[2] Thomas Rigs was chosen "Leather Sealer," and "Dan Guild to Dig the Graves in the Burying Place by the Town Street,"—at the south end, near the site of the first meetinghouse.

The first "merchant" in town was Ichabod Fisher, and at this time he used to go to Wrentham, his native town, once a year, on horseback, and bring back his saddle bags filled with calicos, ribbons, pins, needles, etc., which supplied the dry goods trade in Keene for a year. His store was in his house on "Poverty Lane," now West street, the small yellow house which stood nearly opposite School street until 1880.

On the 2d of September the town "Voted to Clabbord the meeting House Lay the Floors and Glaze the windows of s^{d} House and make all the Doors and Brace the Meeting House as the Carpenter and Committee shall think Needfull—Choose Eben^{r} Nims Michael Metcalf Elisha Briggs Eben^{r} Clark and Josiah Willard to be a Committe To carry on said Business Relating to the meeting House."

There was delay in the settlement of the estate of Amos

[1] This office was continued for twenty years before the "Haymarket" was established, but nothing is known concerning its duties.

[2] It was the duty of deer reeves to enforce the law against killing deer in the spring and summer.

Foster, and the town "Choose Thomas Frink, Esq.r Agent to act in all affairs Relating To the Estate Given to the Town by Mr. Amos Foster Deas'd."

The annual town meeting in 1763 was opened at the meetinghouse, chose David Nims, moderator, and immediately adjourned to "Capt Wymans" (tavern). A full complement of town officers was chosen, among them Capt. Wyman first selectman, Ebenezer Clark and Thomas Riggs, tythingmen.

On the 21st of June the town "Voted Thirteen Pounds Sterling to Pay for the Sashes and Window Frames of the meeting House and for Provideing Stone Boards &c for the meeting House."

On the 13th of September the proprietors met at the meetinghouse, chose David Nims moderator, and "adjourned to the House of Sarah Harrington, Inn Holder." Many of the proprietors having neglected to make out their claims under the Massachusetts grant, it was voted that if they did not present their claims on or before the last day of May, 1764, "then their lands shall be free for any man to lay out." The time was afterwards extended to the last day of September, 1765.

The annual town meeting in 1764 was opened at the meetinghouse, chose Dr. Thomas Frink moderator, and adjourned to the house of Nathan Blake.

On the fifth article: "Voted Six Pound Sterling to Defray the Charges of a School." This is the first record of money appropriated by the town for schools.

On article 7: "Voted Fifty Pounds Sterling to Defray the Charge of mending the Highways and to allow Each man Two Shillings Sterling pr Day for Labour in mending the Highway from the month of May to September and One Shilling and Sixpence Sterling pr Day after Septemr Through the Season of working on the Roads."

A town meeting on the 27th of September, adjourned to the 18th of October—Dr. Thomas Frink, moderator—"Voted to Build a Pulpit in the meeting House and make the Seats in the Body of the meeting House and Set up the Pillars put in the Joyce of the Gallerys all to be Compleated by the First Day of Septemr Next." The sum of ten

pounds, sterling, was raised for that purpose, and Lieut. Ephraim Dorman, Benjamin Hall and Simeon Clark were chosen a committee to carry on the work.

At the annual meeting in 1765, on article 7, "Voted the Sum of Sixty Pounds Sterling to make and mend the Highways and that Two Shillings and Six Pence be allowed p^{r} Day to Each man untill the Last of Septem^{r} and then Two Shillings p^{r} Day for each man and one Shilling p^{r} Day for a yoke of Oxen and Sixpence p^{r} Day for a Cart."

On the 7th of May a legal meeting of the proprietors was held at the meetinghouse under a warrant from Benjamin Bellows of Walpole, "one of his Majestys Justices of the Peace for said Province" of New Hampshire. Capt. Isaac Wyman was chosen moderator.

"Upon the Second article voted to Confirm all the former votes of the Propriety." A committee was chosen to sell the blacksmith's tools, and a vote passed that the money received for them should "be Laid out to Pay for finishing the meeting House."

"Upon the Fourth article Voted that the Propriety will Lay out Sixty acres of Land to Each Right in said Township."

This was the ninth division of the common land, and the method adopted was the same as that of February 23, 1762.

Twelve acres of land were voted to David Foster for his services as clerk in recording the charter; and "Thos Frink Esqr David Nims and Breed Batcheller"[1] were appointed a committee to make an allowance out of the common lands to those who had had roads laid through their thirty acre lots.

The annual town meeting in 1766 chose Capt. Isaac Wyman moderator, and adjourned from the meetinghouse to the house of Benjamin Hall. Ichabod Fisher was elected town clerk and Michael Metcalf "Saxton."

After transacting other business the meeting adjourned to the second Tuesday in April at the meetinghouse, when it was "Voted that Benjamin Hall be agent to represent the Town in Behalf of a Shear Town."

[1] Breed Batcheller, a surveyor, was the first settler of Packersfield, in 1765 —afterwards noted as a tory.

"Voted that the money Given to the Town by Capt. Nathaniel Fairbanks Deas'd The interest of which was for the use of the school in this Town That the Security of said money be Delivered to the Care of the Town Treasurer and his susesors [successors] in said office for the Time Being.

"Voted to Give the Priveledge of the Pew which shall be made at the Right Hand of the Pulpit in the meeting House (That is) adjoining to the Pulpit Stairs to the use and For the Service of the ministers Family in this town for the Time Being Said Pew to be made at the Cost and Charge of the Town.

"Voted to give the Privelege of the Pew Ground in the meeting House to those Persons in this Town who have Paid the Largest Taxes upon Real Estate for Three Last years Past and said Persons shall have Their Choice of Said Pew Ground by Succession according to The Value of the Taxes they Paid in s^{d} Term and shall build their Pews within Six months from this Date and if any of the Said Persons Refuse or Neglect to build their Pew or Pews in Said Term Then the Next highest Payers of the Rates Shall have the said Refusers Property.

"Voted that Benjamin Hall David Nims and Josiah Willard be a Committe to Examine and Determine who are the Persons That have Paid the Larges Taxes in this Town on Real Estate for the Three Last Years Past."

On the 7th of October, the town "Voted to Build a New Bridge Over the River on the Road Leading to Ash Swamp"—to be completed by the first of April following. James Guild was the master mechanic, and Benjamin Hall, Nathan Blake, Simeon Clark, Jesse Clark and Joseph Blake were the committee to oversee the work. Thirty pounds, lawful money, was raised to defray the expense, and men were allowed 2/6 per day for work on the bridge.

On the 10th of November, the town: "Voted for the Better accommodation and Satisfaction of Sundry Persons —That Twelve Persons more being the Next Highest in the Taxes in Real Estate for the Three Last years Past be added to the Former Twelve and may have the Privelege with the former Twelve in the Pew Ground or Pews already made Provided they will Pay their Equal Part to the Satisfaction of those on whose Charge the Pews were Built." The article "To see if they will Do anything about Finishing the meeting house" was dismissed.

The annual meeting of 1767: "Voted to Pay unto Pricilla Ellis the sum of Three Pounds Thirteen Shillings and One Penny Lawful Money for her Service in keeping the School." Article 6th of the warrant: "To see if they will Do anything Further about Finishing the meeting House," was dismissed; but, on the 21st of April, Abraham Wheeler, Benjamin Archer and Josiah Ellis were chosen a committee to lay the gallery floors, and build the stairs and "Breastworks" of the gallery in the meeting-house. At the same meeting six pounds were appropriated to purchase standard weights and measures, new books for the town records and "a Law Book for the use of the town."

Down to this time all public business in the province had been transacted at Portsmouth, but the convenience of the people required the establishment of counties. It was proposed in the assembly, in August of this year, that the portion of the province lying east of Merrimac river should be divided into three counties, and that all the towns and settlements west of the Merrimac should constitute a fourth county. In a postscript to a letter on this subject written by Rev. Daniel Wilkins of Amherst to Hon. George Jaffrey of Portsmouth, an influential member of the council and treasurer of the province, Mr. Wilkins said:

"Amherst Oct ye 1st 1767.

"P: S: S^{r} I must beg leave to tell your Hon^{r} that Mr. Willard a son of Coll Willard of Winchester and one Mr. Hall was at my House the Last Evening as agent for Keen and other towns towards the great River to desire that the Shire Town might be Amherst and likewise that there is a general uneasiness of its being at Merrimack and also Walepole as that every town save two would be greatly Discommoded if the Court was had at Walepole and not at Keen and also beg the favour of its being established at Keen as Keen will much best commode the People in General or at least that his Exelency with your Hon^{rs} would grant them Liberty to bring Down the minds of the People." "D.: W."

November 17, the town chose "Josiah Willard agent to act in Behalf of this Town Respecting the Setling a New County;" and "Voted to Have a School Kept in the Town."

(Probably this was a re-election of Capt. Willard, as Mr. Wilkins called him an agent in October previous.)

The first regular census of the province was made this year by order of the general assembly, with an inventory of the ratable estates and the number of polls, and on the 7th of October the selectmen made their return of the number and description of the inhabitants in Keene as follows:

Unmarried men from 16 to 60	51
Married men from 16 to 60	66
Boys from 16 years and under	84
Men, 60 years and above	4
Females, unmarried	149
Females, married	68
Widows	8
Total	430

(Provincial Papers, vol. 7, pages 168-9.)

The assembly established the proportion which each town should pay on £1,000 of tax. The number of polls in Keene[1] was 106, the valuation of the ratable estates £4,000, and its proportion of tax to £1,000, was fixed at £9 10s.

The annual town meeting of March 1, 1768, adjourned to the 7th, in consequence of the extraordinary flood of waters whereby some of the principal inhabitants could not attend the meeting at that time. The meeting was then held at the house of Benjamin Hall, adjourned from the meetinghouse. "Chose Josiah Willard Benjamin Hall and Ichabod Fisher a Committe to Transcribe the Town Records into a New Book and Rectify Mistakes in said Record if any be Relating to Mr. Sumners Sallary."

At a legal meeting on the 9th of May, Capt. Josiah Willard was chosen representative to the "General Assembly" at Portsmouth—the first representative from Keene

[1] Swanzey returned ..... 74 polls, estates valued at.....£3,000
Winchester " .....108 " " " " 4,000
Westmoreland " ..... 94 " " " " 2,700
Walpole " ..... 75 " " " " 2,900
Charlestown " .....100 " " " " 4,500
Rowley Canada (Rindge) 65 " " " " 2,200
New Ipswich " .....150 " " " " 5,000
Exeter " .....390 " " " " 13,000
Dover " .....384 " " " " 14,700
Portsmouth " .....910 " " " " 32,339
(Provincial Papers, vol. 7, page 166.)

to the legislature of New Hampshire. His father, Col. Josiah Willard, represented Winchester at the same time.

November 17 the town "Voted the Sum of Ten Pound Lawfull Money for Defraying the Charge of a School."

The annual meeting of 1769 was opened at the meetinghouse but adjourned "to the House of Leut. Benjn Hall." After this for a long term of years the town meetings were held at the meetinghouse.

This meeting "Voted to Raise the Sum of Sixty Three Pounds Six Shillings and Eaight Pence Lawfull money For the Rev'd mr. Sumners Sallary the Present year—

"Voted the Sum of Ten Pounds Lawfull money for Procureing Mr. Sumners Firewood: and each Person to have Liberty to Pay his Propotion of the above Sum in Good Marchantable Firewood at Five Shillings pr cord to be Deliv'd at Mr. Sumners Door at or Before the First Day of February Next;" or in default thereof the money was to be collected. "Choose Benjamin Archer Collector to Collect said Fire wood or the money for Procureing the same."

"Voted to Build a Bridge Over the North Branch upon the Road Leading to Joseph Browns." Mr. Brown lived in what is now Roxbury and this bridge was on the present Roxbury road—the first at that place.

"Choose Capt. Ephraim Dorman and Leut. Benjamin Hall and Jeremiah Stiles a Committee to Perambulate the Town Lines." The first perambulation had been made in 1760 by "Lieut. Ephraim Dorman, Ensign William Smeed and Lieut. Seth Heaton."

On the same day, March 7, the proprietors held a meeting and voted to grant another division of land—twenty-five acres to each right—the distribution to be made in the same manner as that previously adopted, except that each proprietor was given the right to lay out ten or less of his twenty-five acres adjoining his own land.

The annual meeting of 1770 "Voted to Seat the meeting House" and chose "Thos Frink Esq. Thomas Baker Leut Benjamin Hall Dan Guild and Abraham Wheeler" a committee for that purpose.

"Voted further to give Liberty to Jeremiah Stiles Thos Wilder Samuel Wadsworth Robert Gillmore Benjamin Archer Jotham Metcalf Elisha Briggs Silas Cooke Eben^{r} Carpenter Eben^{r} Newton Amos Patridge and Daniel Kings-

bury to build Four Pews in the front Gallary and two more Pews over the mens & Womens Gallery stairs said Pew Ground to be Devided amongst them as they shall agree among themselves."

Article 10, "To se if they will Do anything Relating to a School," was dismissed.

The proprietors met on the 27th of April, chose David Nims moderator, and appointed a committee consisting of Lieut. Seth Heaton, Major Josiah Willard and Lieut. Benjamin Hall "to make Search and See what money is due to Coll[l] Bellows for the Charter." The meeting then adjourned to the 30th of May, when it "voted to Elisha Briggs Liberty to Lay out forty acres in any of the Common Land in this Township he the said Briggs Discharging the Prop[rs] and Grantees from what Coll[l] Bellows Requires of the Prop[rs] and Grantees for the Charter of this Town which Sum is Sixteen Dollars and Three Quarters[1] which offer M[r] Briggs accepted and Ingaged to bring a Discharge in the space of a month from the Date above."

On the 13th of December, 1769, Gov. John Wentworth granted a charter to Dartmouth college, to be established at Hanover. Towards the close of the following summer Rev. Eleazar Wheelock, with his family, in a coach—the gift of a London friend—his servants, his laborers and some students, numbering in all seventy persons, with cattle, swine and carts loaded with furniture, clothing, books and implements of husbandry and the arts, made their long and tedious journey of 200 miles from Lebanon, Conn., to Hanover, N. H.[2] Doubtless they passed through Keene, as the best route must have been through Deerfield, Northfield and Winchester, and here they would strike the military road opened by Col. Goffe in 1759 through Keene to No. 4; and a military road had also been opened from No. 4 through Hanover to Haverhill, N. H.

The following advertisement appeared in the Connecticut Courant, published at Hartford, October 16, 1770:

"DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, in Hanover, Oct. 11, 1770.

"WHEREAS a meeting of the honorable corporation of Dartmouth College, was appointed to be on this day in

[1] Showing the value of the best common land to be about 42 cents per acre.

[2] Sanborn's History of New Hampshire, page 154. McClintock's History of New Hampshire, page 517, and address of Nathan Crosby.

this place, but by some means the advertisement of the same, which was sent to be published in the New Hampshire Gazette miscarried, which makes another appointment necessary.

"These are therefore to notify all concerned that a meeting of said corporation is now appointed to be held at the house of Mr. Wyman, innholder in Keen, on monday the 22nd instant, at nine o'clock in the forenoon.

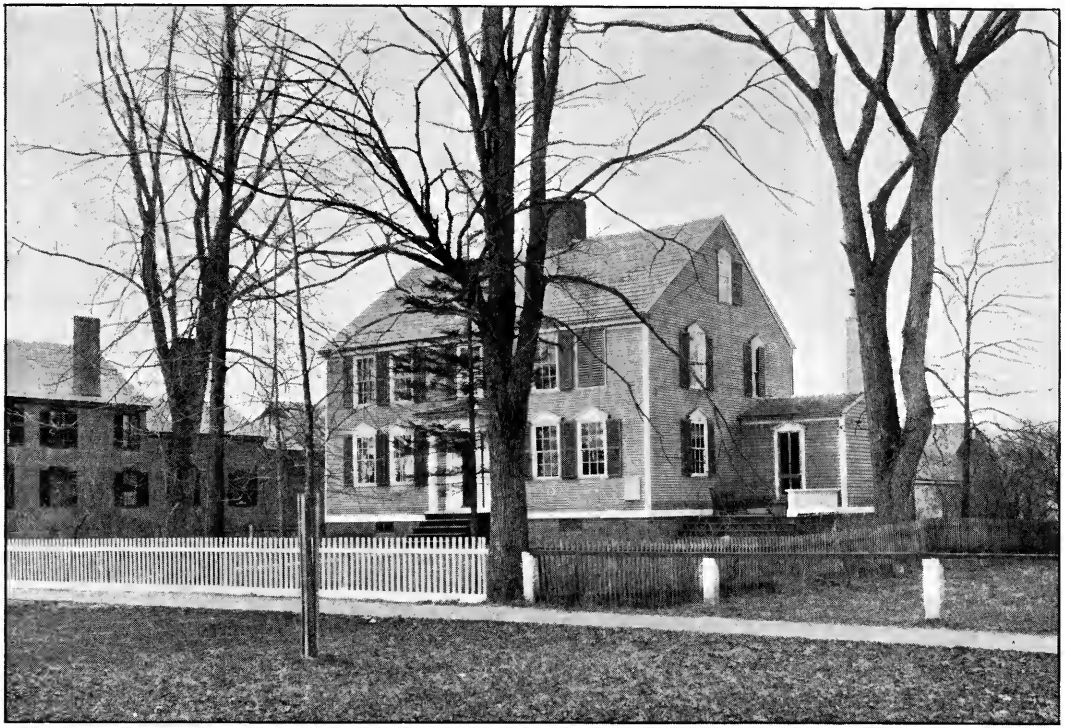
By Eleazer Wheelock
President of said College."

"Captain Wyman's tavern in Keen," which he had then kept for seven years, was noted far and wide as an excellent inn.[1] It was a convenient rallying point for the trustees, who were scattered from northern New Hampshire to Connecticut, and they met there according to notice, in the northeast room of that house—now the residence of Mrs. R. S. Perkins, 339 Main street. "Rev. Dr. Eleazer Wheelock presided and Rev. William Patten was clerk," and the administrative work of Dartmouth college was begun in that room.

A legal meeting on the 29th of October voted to divide the town into four school districts corresponding nearly to the four territorial quarters of the town, and each district was required to build a schoolhouse. Fifteen pounds were raised for the support of the four schools, each district to have its proportion according to the tax it paid.

At the annual meeting in 1771, upon a petition of some of the people living on the east side of North branch, they were set off into a school district by themselves;

[1] The statement has been made that Dr. Thomas Frink had previously kept this same tavern, but that is found to have been an error. Dr. Frink preceded Capt. Wyman as the principal tavern keeper at that end of the town, but not in the same house. From the registry of old deeds in the state library at Concord we learn that in 1757, while still in command of Fort Massachusetts, Capt. Isaac Wyman bought of Joseph Fisher, of Dedham, Mass., the original house-lot No. 47, "on the West side of the Town street" in Keene, (where the "Old Wyman Tavern" still stands); but there could not have been a house of any value on it then, for he paid only "one hundred Pounds Lawful Money" for that and the adjoining lots Nos. 46 and 48, and thirty acres on Beech hill. In 1761, while still at Fort Massachusetts, he bought of Rev. Jacob Bacon, then of Plymouth, Mass., the four lots at the south end on the same side of the street,— with some exceptions, as the east end of lot 54—Nos. 51 to 54. The town records of 1762 show that he was then living in Keene, a man of comparative wealth, owning a large amount of property in the town. The records also show that in March, 1763, he was keeping the same tavern that he kept in 1775, and until it passed into the hands of Wm. Ward Blake, who married his daughter Roxana. The inevitable conclusion is that he built the costly (for those days) tavern-house on lot 47 in that first year of his residence here, 1762. It was built specially for a tavern, having a hall over the south half, wine closets, and other tavern conveniences, and the southeast room was the all-important tap room. Dr. Frink never owned lot No. 47, but did own lots 49 and 50, on which were a "Dwelling House and Barn," buying them in December, 1761, and selling them to Col. Josiah Willard in 1765.



WYMAN TAVERN. BUILT 1762.

and Elijah Blake, and others on the west side of the river, in the northwest quarter, were set off in the same way.

A meeting on the 15th of May chose Lieut. Benjamin Hall representative to the "General Assembly;" and "voted to Glaze the meeting house and Choose Josiah Richardson Leut. Timothy Ellis & Elijah Williams comitte to carry on s^{d} Business."

In all these years the people in this part of the province had suffered the expense and inconvenience of going to Portsmouth whenever they had business before the courts. For many years the subject of establishing counties had been agitated, and in 1769 an act passed the legislature and was signed by the governor dividing the province into five counties—Rockingham, Strafford, Hillsborough, Cheshire and Grafton. The first three and the last were named by Gov. Wentworth for English noblemen who were his personal friends. Cheshire was named after the English county of that name, and included the present county of Sullivan. Keene was made one of the shire towns of Cheshire, and Charlestown the other.

But the operation of the act was suspended until the king should approve. His assent having been obtained, the act went into effect in 1771. From that time, for several years, the warrants for town meetings were headed "Cheshire s.s.," and for three years longer they were issued in "His Majesty's Name." The first meeting for the choice of jurors in Keene was held on the 2d of September. Grand jurymen were chosen by the voters; petit jurors were "drawn and appointed" by the selectmen.

"His Majestys Superior Court of Judicature" was held for the first time in Keene on the "Third Tuesday of September;" "His Majestys Inferior Court of Common Pleas" on the "Second Tuesday of October;" and the "Court of General Sessions of the Peace" on "the Thursday following the Second Tuesday of October." Thomas Baker, Joseph Ellis and Eliphalet Briggs were "chosen" grand jurors, and Nathan Blake, Michael Metcalf and Thomas Wilder were drawn as petit jurors for the several courts.

Major Josiah Willard of Keene had been appointed

"Recorder of Deeds & Conveyances of Real Estate" in March, and he held that office until 1776.

At a legal town meeting held on the 14th of February, 1772, it was "Voted by the Majority both of the Church and Congregation that it is the mind of the Town that the Revd Mr Sumner be Dismissed from the Work of the Ministry in this Town."

A council of elders and delegates from the churches of Cornish, Northfield and Warwick was convened here on the 29th of April, at Mr. Sumner's request, which recommended his dismissal, and a town meeting on the 30th accepted the recommendation and he retired from the pastorate, but remained an estimable citizen of the town. At the close of Mr. Sumner's ministry of eleven years a very large proportion of the citizens were members of the church. The cause of the dissatisfaction with Mr. Sumner was said to be "the misconduct of his children."

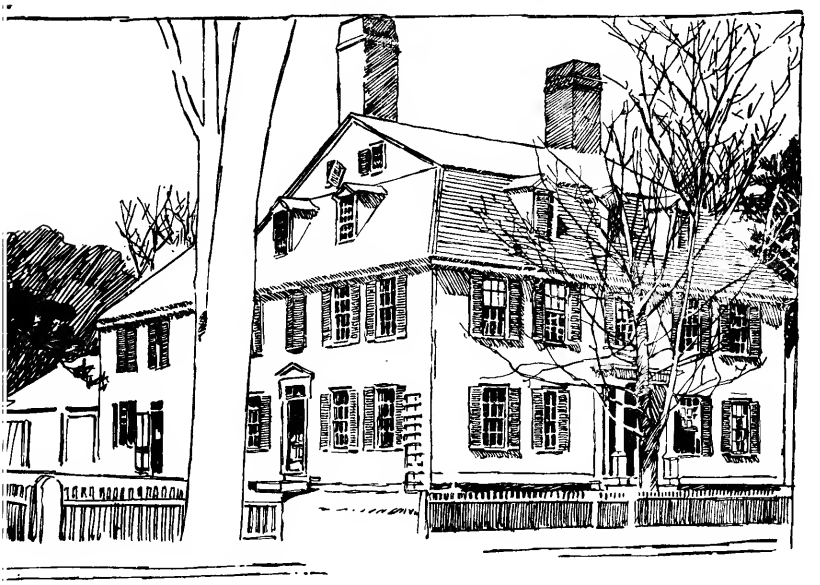
The annual meeting of 1772 not having been legally held, ten citizens of the town petitioned "The Honble Elisha Marsh Esqr one of his majestys Justices of the Peace" to call a meeting for the choice of town officers, etc. That meeting was held on the 24th of March—Thomas Frink, moderator—and voted thirty pounds for the support of schools for the year. Various sums were also voted to individuals for labor and materials furnished in finishing the meetinghouse.

A meeting on the 5th of June "Voted to Dispose of the Towns Land to pay the Towns Debts," and chose a committee for that purpose, but no record of sales with that object in view has been found.

The annual meeting of 1773 raised forty pounds for the support of schools. In July, 1772, a committee had been chosen to provide a suitable person to preach the gospel. The meeting in 1773 made it the duty of the selectmen to engage the minister, and "Voted the Sum of Sixty pounds for the Charge of preaching the Gospel the year Ensuing." A "Mr. Porter" and a "Mr Nathaniel Niles" had been employed for some months in that capacity, and a meeting on the 23d of March, 1773, "Voted to Hear Mr Nathaniel Niles Preach upon probation in order to Settle

in the Ministry among us." In December, the same year, the town "Voted to hear Mr. Augustine Hibbert [Hibbard] preach further upon probation."

In September the town "voted to allow Josiah Richardson to alter the Road Leading from the meeting house to Ichabod Fishers and to Remove Said Road and to Turn out on the South Side of the meeting house with a Stait line to Ichabod Fishers in the place which the Said Richardson has choesen." The meetinghouse then stood on the south side of what is now Central park.



THE RICHARDSON TAVERN.

Josiah Richardson had built, and then kept tavern in, the colonial house which was replaced in 1893 by the Y. M. C. A. building, and this change opened the present line of West street from the Square. It had previously turned west from Main street, diagonally, about where Lamson block now stands, and was called Poverty lane. With this change it was given the name of Pleasant street.

In October, Gov. John Wentworth requested a census of the population of the province, to be taken by the selectmen of each town. The return for Keene was:

"Unmarried men, 16 to 60 yrs..... 65
Married men under 60 yrs..... 96
Boys, 16 and under.....140
Men, 60 yrs. and upward..... 11
Females unmarried.....217
Females married.....105
Widows..... 10
Male slaves..... 1

645

David Nims, Eliphalet Briggs, jr., Benjamin Hall, Selectmen."
(State Papers, vol. 10, Census, 1773.)

The total population of the province was given as 72,092; whole number of slaves, 674; slaves in Cheshire county, 9.

In those years of peace and prosperity and rapid growth of the towns and the provinces, the mutterings of the approaching storm of the Revolution began to be heard. A young monarch, George III, had come to the throne; the colonists were loyal to their sovereign and regarded the mother country with devotion; but the abundant evidences of prosperity in America had led the home government to believe that a large income might be drawn from that source, and thus relieve the over-taxed people of England. To make the taxes as little burdensome and irritating as possible, they were levied chiefly in the form of duties on foreign sugar, molasses and other commodities which came in competition with colonial products, and by stamps on all legal and mercantile papers. But even these softened measures were felt to be an assumption of the right to seize and dispose of the property of the colonists without remuneration or representation, and aroused a determined spirit of opposition. Neither the petitions of the colonists for redress nor the arguments of powerful advocates of their cause in parliament produced any effect. The government persisted in its blind folly. The people became greatly excited, and acts of violence followed the attempt to enforce the obnoxious laws. The stamp act was to go into operation on the first day of November, 1765. On the last day of October the New Hampshire Gazette, published at Portsmouth, appeared with a mourning border. The next day people came in from the towns around, the bells were

tolled, and there was a mock funeral of the Goddess of Liberty. Similar demonstrations were made in Massachusetts and other colonies.

In 1766 the stamp act was repealed, greatly to the joy of the colonists; but there were other laws which bore harshly upon them, and this was only a lull in the storm of resentment and opposition. The martial spirit of the people, aroused and stimulated by the French and Indian wars, had not died out, and while there was no thought of separation from the mother country, the trained veterans of those wars were not disposed to submit to any impositions, or any encroachments on their rights.

The militia had been kept up, not at the expense of the government, or of the province chiefly, but of the citizen soldiers themselves. John Wentworth had succeeded his uncle, Benning Wentworth, as governor of the province. He was only thirty years old, was fond of military display, and he gave his personal and official influence to the improvement of the militia. The number of regiments was increased to twelve, and the 6th covered the southwest corner of the province as in 1760. Josiah Willard of Winchester was still its colonel, Benjamin Bellows of Walpole lieutenant colonel, and Josiah Willard, Jr., of Keene and Breed Batcheller of Packersfield, majors. Keene had a company of 117 officers and men, and an alarm list (of the older and not fully able-bodied men) of forty-five.

"The following muster-roll has been handed to the compiler, by a veteran of the Revolution:

"A LIST OF THE FOOT COMPANY IN KEENE.

"Lieut. Benjamin Hall,	Joseph Gray,
Ensign, Michael Metcalf,	Samuel Hall,
Clerk, Simeon Clark,	Jesse Hall,
Serj. Elijah Blake,	Peter Hubbert,
Serj. Thomas Baker,	Seth Heaton, Jr.,
Serj. Isaac Esty,	John Houghton,
Serj. Jedediah Carpenter,	Joseph Hills,
Corp. Dan Guild,	Davis Howlet,
Corp. Joseph Blake,	Ziba Hall,
Corp. Abijah Metcalf,	Jonathan Heaton,
Benjamin Archer,	Luther Heaton,
Jonathan Archer,	Nathaniel Kingsbury,
Asahel Blake,	Daniel Kingsbury,

John Brown,
Elisha Briggs,
John Balch,
Benjamin Balch, Jr.,
Luther Bragg,
Samuel Bassett,
John Burt,
Nathan Blake, Jr.,
Obadiah Blake, Jr.,
Royal Blake,
Naboth Bettison,
Thomas Baker, Jr.,
John Pray Blake,
Cephas Clark,
Seth Clark,
Eliphalet Carpenter,
Ebenezer Carpenter,
Samuel Chapman,
Silas Cook,
Isaac Clark,
Simeon Clark, Jr.,
Jonas Clark,
John Day, Jr.,
John Daniels,
Reuben Daniels,
John Dickson,
Addington Daniels,
Ebenezer Day, Jr.,
Jacob Day,
James Dean,
Timothy Crossfield,
Joseph Ellis, Jr.,
Gideon Ellis, Jr.,
Simeon Ellis,
Timothy Ellis, 3d,
William Ellis,
Caleb Ellis,
Stephen Esty,
James Eady,
Henry Ellis,
Benjamin Ellis,
Benjamin Ellis, Jr.,
Joshua Ellis,
Jabez Fisher,
Silas French,
David Foster, Jr.,
Peter Fiskin,
Aaron Gray, Jr.,
Stephen Larabee,
Daniel Lake,
Ezra Metcalf,
Jonathan Metcalf,
Moses Marsh,
Eli Metcalf,
Daniel Metcalf,
William Nelson,
David Nims, Jr.,
Ebenezer Newton,
Asahel Nims,
Eliakim Nims,
Zadoc Nims,
Alpheus Nims,
Joshua Osgood,
Benjamin Osgood, Jr.,
Amos Partridge,
Jonathan Pond,
Abiathar Pond,
Nathan Rugg,
Josiah Richardson,
Eleazer Sanger,
Abner Sanger,
Robert Spencer,
Jeremiah Stiles,
Richard Smith,
John Swan,
Jacob Town,
Joseph Thatcher,
Abraham Wheeler, Jr.,
Joseph Willson,
William Woods,
Oliver Wright,
Jedediah Wellman,
David Willson,
Daniel Willson,
Thomas Wells,
John White,
James Wright,
Zadoc Wheeler,
Walter Wheeler,
Samuel Wadsworth,
Abijah Wilder,
Jonathan Wheeler,
Thomas Wilder,
Thomas Morse,
Ephraim Leonard,
Peter Daniels,

William Goodenow,
John Griggs,
"To Col. Josiah Willard.
Luke Metcalf,
Isaac Wyman, Jr.,
Ephraim Dorman, C.
Errors Excepted.

Keene August 7, 1773."

"THE ALARM LIST BELONGING TO KEENE.

"Lieut. Seth Heaton,
Dea. David Foster,
John Day,
Abraham Wheeler,
Nathan Blake,
Joseph Ellis,
Uriah Willson,
Ebenezer Nims,
David Nims,
Gideon Ellis,
Lieut. Andrew Balch,
Aaron Gray,
Ebenezer Day,
Eliphalet Briggs,
Benjamin Archer,
Capt. Isaac Wyman,
Doct. Obadiah Blake,
Lieut. Timothy Ellis,
Thomas Frink, Esq.,
Doct. Josiah Pomeroy,
Doct. Gideon Tiffany,
Elijah Williams,
Israel Houghton,
Samuel Woods,
Samuel Daniels,
Jesse Clark,
Joseph Brown,
Robert Gillmore,
Obadiah Hamilton,
Peter Rice,
Elisha Ellis,
Isaac Billings,
Josiah Ellis,
Timothy Ellis, Jr.,
Ichabod Fisher,
William Gray,
Benjamin Hall, Jr.,
Benjamin Osgood,
Nathaniel Hall,
Samuel Woods, Jr.,
John Connolly,
Samuel Colhoun,
Ebenezer Cooke,
Daniel Snow,
Eliphalet Briggs, Jr."

(Annals of Keene, pages 37-38.)

The number of ratable polls in Keene, as returned by order of the general assembly in May, 1773, for a new apportionment of taxes, was 150.

The annual town meeting of 1774 voted sixty pounds for the support of preaching and forty pounds for schools; and the selectmen were made the committee to supply the pulpit.

The first school committees of which we have any record were chosen this year, consisting of two members in each district, of which there were now seven.

A town meeting on the 31st of March chose Lieut. Benjamin Hall representative to the provincial assembly which met at Portsmouth, on the 7th of April. He also represented the town at the previous session of the

assembly, which began on the 11th of January, although no record of his election is found.

"Voted that all marks of Sheep and Cattle belonging to this Town be put on Record in a book provided for that purpose."

Parliament continued to enforce laws which irritated the colonists, the feeling of opposition grew more and more intense, and the war clouds more and more threatening. One of the most obnoxious of those laws was that levying a duty of three pence per pound on tea, and the people determined to deny themselves their favorite beverage. Keene and nearly all the towns took action condemning its use, the colonies adopted articles of agreement against its importation, and the people refused to allow it to be brought into the country. The "Boston Tea Party" took place in December, 1773. In June, 1774, the ship "Grosvenor" from London arrived at Portsmouth with twenty-seven chests of Bohea tea consigned to Edward Parry, a merchant of that town. The people compelled him to reship it to Halifax. In September another consignment came to the same person. A mob attacked Parry's house, broke in his windows and threatened more serious consequences if the tea were not immediately reshipped. That consignment was also sent to Halifax; and for a long time afterwards "Sent to Halifax" was a common by-word in the province.

At the spring session of the assembly of New Hampshire in 1773, the house of representatives had appointed a "Committee of Correspondence"—usually called the "Committee of Safety"—as had been done in other provinces; and a vigorous correspondence was opened with those other committees. The result was that the colonies chose delegates to a general congress, which met in Philadelphia in 1774, to take into consideration the condition of public affairs and recommend measures upon which all could unite and act in concert. That congress was composed of some of the ablest men in the country.

Gov. Wentworth had labored to prevent the appointment of a committee of correspondence in New Hampshire, and when the act passed he dissolved the assembly. But

the patriots were not to be balked by mere forms. The committee at once assumed the position and powers of the general executive of the province and issued a summons to the representatives, who again met in their own hall. The governor, through the sheriff of the county, commanded them to disperse and keep the peace, but when he had retired they proceeded to business, recommended a day of fasting and prayer, which was solemnly observed, and called upon all the towns to send delegates to a convention at Exeter to choose delegates to the Continental congress. That committee met on the 21st of July, and was called the First Provincial congress. Lieut. Benjamin Hall was the representative to the general assembly, but he proved to be a loyalist, and Keene does not appear to have been represented in that convention.

Upon the meeting of the Continental congress, a statement of the grievances of the colonists was drawn up, followed by articles of agreement upon measures for securing redress. Those articles were called the "Non-Importation Agreement," or association, and the "Non-Consumption Agreement," which forbade the importation or consumption of any goods or merchandise whatever from Great Britain or Ireland, or the dependent islands of Great Britain. It was also agreed: "That a committee be chosen in every County, City and Town, those who are qualified to vote for Representatives in the Legislatures, whose business it shall be attentively to observe the conduct of all persons touching this Association," etc. The agreements were signed by all the delegates, for themselves and their constituents. Those agreements bore severely upon the people, for they shut out many articles that were necessary for their comfort and convenience; but the patriots readily submitted to the deprivation for the good of the common cause.

A town meeting was held on the 26th of September, 1774, David Nims, moderator. One article in the warrant was to see if it be the mind of the town to sign the covenant and engagement, which was sent and recommended, by the committee of correspondence, relating to the non-importation agreement. The general congress was

then in session but had not yet acted upon this question, and the meeting passed the following preamble and vote: "whearas the Towns in this province have chosen members to Represent them in a General Congress of all the Collines Now sitting at the City of Philadelphia to consult and Determine what steps are Necessary for the Collonies to adopt: voted therefore not to sign the said non importation agreement until we hear what measures said Congress has agreed upon for themselves & their constituents."

The same meeting "voted to get a Stock of ammunition for the Town viz. 200 lb of good gun powder, 400 lb of Lead and 1200 flints." Twenty-four pounds "lawful money" were raised for that purpose, and Capt. Isaac Wyman, Lieut. Timothy Ellis and Capt. Ephraim Dorman were chosen a committee to provide the articles. The same committee was instructed to build a magazine six feet square for storing the ammunition; but a subsequent meeting voted not to build the magazine.

October 17, the town "voted unanimously to give Mr. Elias Jones a Call to Settle in the work of the Gospel ministry in this Town;" and voted to give him "one hundred and Thirty Three pounds Six Shillings & Eight pence as a Settlement," and seventy-five pounds as an annual salary. The selectmen were made a committee to lay the votes of the town before him, but no report of any further negotiations with him has been found. "The Worthy Mr. William Fessenden" also preached as a candidate during the year, but the town voted not to call him.

At this October meeting, the town "choose Capt Isaac Wyman & Leut Timothy Ellis Delegates to attend the Congress at Walepole the Fourth Tuesday of this Instant" to take measures for the better security of the internal police of the county. Nothing is known concerning the proceedings of that "Congress."

A convention of delegates from the towns in this vicinity was held at Keene, on the 28th of December, which issued an address to the people urging patriotic action, and recommending the towns to hold public meetings and adopt a by-law which was prepared and sent out with

the address. No other record of that convention has been preserved.

An order had been passed by the king in council prohibiting the exportation of gunpowder and other military stores to America. Fort William and Mary, at the entrance of Portsmouth harbor, contained military stores, and the only force that held it at that time was a captain and five men. The committee of safety at Boston were on the watch for every kind of information. They learned of the orders of the king, and also that the frigate Scarborough was to take troops to the Piscataqua to secure Fort William and Mary. They sent Paul Revere express to Portsmouth with the news. He arrived on the 13th of December, 1774. Committees of safety had been formed in many of the towns, and the committee of Portsmouth promptly and secretly notified some of the leading men in that and neighboring towns. The Portsmouth company under Capt. Thomas Pickering turned out and was swelled by men from other places. Major John Sullivan and Capt. John Langdon joined the party and aided in giving direction to the movement. They proceeded to the fort, captured the small garrison, and brought off a hundred barrels of powder[1] and sixty stands of small arms. The next day fifteen of the light cannon and all the small arms and other stores were brought off—just before the arrival of the Scarborough and the sloop Canseau with several companies of troops, who took possession of the fort and dismantled it.

Some of the wealthy men in the province were disposed to be loyal to the crown on account of the property they had at stake; but a large majority of the people of Keene were outspoken patriots, and many of them were determined and enthusiastic in that cause. A few of the leading men were inclined to loyalty but were prudent and avoided controversy with their neighbors on that subject; and some of the citizens were inclined to follow the lead of those influential, secret loyalists.

Those officers of the law who had not thrown up their commissions were, of necessity, loyalists; but the patriots

[1] A part of the powder was secreted under Durham meetinghouse and part was used at the battle of Bunker Hill.

generally were extremely bitter towards all who were tinctured with toryism, and refused to allow the royal mandates to be executed.

Elijah Williams, a lawyer, had come to Keene in 1771, and had been appointed a "Justice of the Peace" by Governor Wentworth in May, 1774. In the winter of 1774-5 he "instituted a suit against a citizen of Keene, the writ being in the form then usual, commencing 'George the Third, by the grace of God, King,' &c. Immediately afterwards, a large number of people, many coming from the neighboring towns, assembled at Keene, seized Williams, and took him with them to their place of meeting, which was a barn standing by itself, in a field. They required him to stop the suit, and to promise that he would issue no more writs in the name of the King. Perceiving he had no alternative, he complied, and was then set at liberty." (Annals, page 40.)

CHAPTER VII.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

1775.

On the 4th of January the town "voted to come into the Measures Recommended by the Continenttal Congress in their association agreement—voted to choos a Committe of Inspection agreable to s^{d} advice: Choose Capt Isaac Wyman Leut. Timothy Ellis Thos Baker Dan Guild & William Ellis for said Committe of Inspection." "Choose Capt Isaac Wyman to Represent s^{d} Town at the meeting at Exeter to be held on the 21st Instant for the choice of Delegates for the Continental Congress to meet at Philadelphia on may Next."

That convention of deputies from the several towns, sometimes called the Second Provincial congress, met at Exeter on the 25th of January, issued an address to the people warning them of the dangers of British aggression, encouraging them to stand firm as patriots, to support the committee of correspondence, to practise military drill, and to adhere to the agreement to sustain the measures recommended by the Continental congress. John Sullivan and John Langdon were chosen delegates to another Continental congress which was to meet at Philadelphia on the 10th of May.

Nine of the leading men of the colony were appointed a committee of safety, Mathew Thornton of Londonderry chairman, with full power to act as the executive of the colony when the congress was not in session and "to call a Provincial Convention of Deputies, when they shall judge the exigencies of publick affairs require it."

A town meeting on the 23d of February chose Capt. Isaac Wyman to "Represent the Town as a Member of the General Assembly holden at Portsmouth on Feb^{r} 23^{d} & so day by Day During their Sessions."

The annual town meeting in March refused to raise

money for the support of preaching, but voted 13^{s} 4^{d} to Elisha Briggs "for his service in finishing the meeting house," and 6^{s} to Silas Cooke for sweeping the same. For about six years at this time the town was without a settled minister. Sixty pounds were voted for schools, the management of the schools was added to the duties of the selectmen, and no school committees were chosen.

The controversy with Great Britain increased in bitterness, and the people in all parts of the country grew more and more excited. Civil officers threw up their commissions under the king, the courts of justice were suspended and the laws relating to civil affairs were no longer executed.

By the militia law then in force, the execution of which was now in the hands of the committee of safety and the provincial congress, every male inhabitant from sixteen to sixty years of age was required to provide himself with a musket and bayonet, knapsack, cartridge-box, one pound of powder, twenty bullets and twelve flints. Every town was required to keep constantly on hand one barrel of powder, 200 pounds of lead and 300 flints for every sixty men, besides a quantity of these stores for those who were unable to supply themselves. Even the old men and those not able to do full military duty were required to keep on hand the same supply of arms and ammunition as the active militia-men. But for fifteen years there had been peace and the law had not been enforced, and now the people were rudely awakened to the fact that there was less than half the required amount of military stores among them, and that there were scarcely any to be had in the country; that the veterans of the Indian wars were fast passing away; and that their young men were learning nothing of military arts and duties.

Attention was called to these facts by the leading patriots and by the convention. In addition to the regularly organized companies and regiments, voluntary associations were formed for the purpose of learning military exercises, the brightest and most experienced men were chosen to command, and drills and training became frequent. Companies of "minute men" were organized, to

move at a minute's warning, and the manufacture of arms, equipments and powder was stimulated. Congress urged the collection of saltpetre, and bounties were paid by the colony to those who produced the largest quantities of that article; and everybody set to work to save everything about the stables and other buildings from which it could be extracted.

The patriots had collected a few military stores at various points, particularly at Concord, Mass. Gen. Gage, the British commander at Boston, determined to seize and destroy them. But no secret whispered among the British officers and royalists in Boston failed to reach the ears of the patriots.

The committees of safety and the people were on the watch. Men were stationed in each of the towns of Charlestown, Cambridge and Roxbury with instructions to note every movement of the British troops. Expresses were kept in readiness to speed intelligence to the country around and preparations were made to flash the news by signal lights.

In the evening of Tuesday, April 18, the British grenadiers and light infantry were put in motion and marched down to the foot of the common. At 11 o'clock they crossed the river in boats, landed at Lechmere Point (East Cambridge), and started on their march to Lexington and Concord.

The patriot sentinels were alert. The lanterns were hung in the steeple of Christ church on Copp's hill. Paul Revere crossed Charles river in a boat five minutes before the British sentinels received the order to allow no one to leave Boston, mounted a fleet horse and sped away to Lexington, rousing the people as he went. Other messengers hastened in all directions, bells were rung and neighbor sent word to neighbor.

Before sunrise American citizens had been slain at Lexington, and minute-men and other patriots were flocking to the scene of action. The tidings were caught up by relays of swift horsemen and fleet runners on foot—"like the burnt and bloody cross of the Scotch Highlanders"—and carried to every township and every log cabin.

So swift were those messengers that they reached New Ipswich—60 miles away—the same afternoon, while the British were still on their bloody retreat to Boston, and ninety-seven men under Capt. Thomas Heald started for Lexington at 2 o'clock that night.

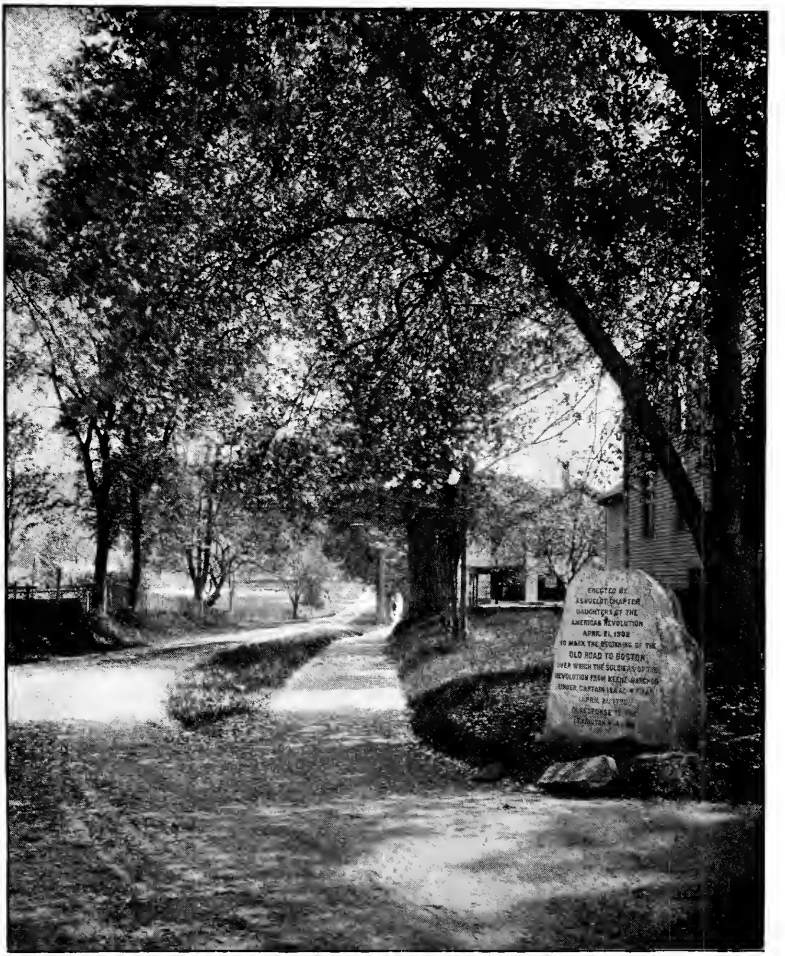
Rindge received the news late on the same afternoon, the night was spent in rallying, and fifty-four men under Captain—afterwards Colonel—Nathan Hale started early the next morning and were in Cambridge before night of the 21st.

It was ninety miles to Keene, and there was no road this side of New Ipswich—nothing but a bridle path through the woods, to be followed by marked trees—nevertheless the messenger arrived here "in the forenoon" of the 20th. Capt. Ephraim Dorman commanded the military company. He lived on the east side of Main street just north of what is now Baker street. Resolute and patriotic but too old for active service—he was then sixty-five—he immediately called for consultation on Capt. Isaac Wyman, a more experienced soldier than himself, who kept the public house already described. By his advice messengers were sent to every part of the town, notifying the inhabitants to meet on the "Green" that afternoon.

The meetinghouse stood then where the soldiers' monument stands now, facing south; and the "Green," or common—the training ground of the military company—was the space in front of the meetinghouse extending down to the present railroad tracks, with a few detached ten-footers on its eastern side, and open fields bordered by one or two small buildings on the west.

The meeting was held as notified, and voted unanimously to send a company "to oppose the regulars." Capt. Wyman was chosen commander, and though fifty-one years old—a veteran of the French and Indian wars—he promptly accepted the command. Volunteers were called for and twenty-nine men stepped to the front, the captain himself making the number thirty.

With the wisdom of experience, he told his men to return to their homes, prepare their arms and equipments



Boston Road, now Baker Street. With D. A. R. Marker.

and get provisions for several days; for, said he, "all the roads will be full of men and you can procure nothing on the way;" and to meet at his house the next morning at sunrise.

That evening, by invitation of Capt. Wyman, Capt. Dorman, Lieut. Jeremiah Stiles and other leading patriots of the town met for consultation in the north room of Capt. Wyman's tavern—the same parlor in which the first meeting of the trustees of Dartmouth college had been held in 1770—and everything that foresight could suggest was arranged for the march.

Promptly at the hour[1]—on that Friday morning, the 21st of April, 1775—the men were there and immediately marched off down Main street, turning down what is now Baker street, and out on the Marlboro road and thence to Jaffrey and New Ipswich, probably, as that was then the road to Boston. Their names were:

Capt. Isaac Wyman.

Jeremiah Stiles, chosen lieutenant and afterwards captain and commanded the company at Bunker Hill.

John Griggs, afterwards spelled Gregg, chosen ensign and was afterwards a captain.

Samuel White, appointed sergeant, twenty years old.

Ezra Metcalf, appointed sergeant, left wife and child in the west part.

Asahel Nims, appointed sergeant, son of David, 26 years old, killed at Bunker Hill.

Luke Metcalf, appointed corporal.

Benjamin Ellis, appointed corporal, son of Joseph, twenty years old, afterwards a captain in the Continental army.

Samuel Bassett, fifer, slightly wounded at Bunker Hill.

Ebenezer Billings, came to Keene from Packersfield, an apprentice of Breed Batcheller, the tory.

William Bradley.

Stephen Day, wounded at Bunker Hill and died Aug. 17.

Jesse Dassance; James Eddy; Caleb Ellis, son of Lieut. Timothy Ellis; Hugh Gray; Isaac Griswold;[2] Eliakim Nims, brother of Asahel, twenty-four years old.

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[1] "In the afternoon, Gen. Bellows, Col. John Bellows, and Thomas Sparhawk, arrived from Walpole, and riding to his house, inquired for Capt. Wyman. Being answered, that he started at sunrise, at the head of a company of men, they exclaimed, 'Keene has shown a noble spirit!' and hastened onwards. They were soon followed by a party of men from Walpole." (Annals, page 41.)

[2] On the roll as from Gilsum. He lived near the line; owned land in both towns, which then gave him the right to vote in both; was prominent in the town affairs of Keene for many years; and was a member of this company.

Charles Rice,[1] Daniel Stone, Joseph Thatcher, Elisha Willis, Daniel Willson, great uncle of the late Gen. James Wilson (lived at this time in what has since been known as the Jabez Daniels house on Court street, south of the glue factory), left wife and three children.

These twenty-two men marched from Keene with Capt. Wyman, enlisted into the service, were in Stiles's company at Bunker Hill, were afterwards transferred into a Massachusetts regiment, and their identity is shown on that regimental roll by the date of enlistment, at Keene, April 21, 1775.

We also learn from the New Hampshire Revolutionary Rolls that Benjamin Tiffany, a sergeant, and Elijah Blake, a private, in the company of Capt. Samuel Richards, of Goffstown, in Stark's regiment; and Ebenezer Carpenter, a sergeant in the company of Capt. Benjamin Mann, of Mason, in Reed's regiment, were from Keene, and each enlisted April 23, and were in the battle of Bunker Hill. It is therefore probable—almost certain—that these three men were also among the thirty who marched from Keene on the 21st; and that in the unsettled state of affairs, the strife among recruiting officers to secure men, and the fact that Capt. Wyman was promoted out of the company, these men joined other companies, dating their enlistment from the time they arrived at Medford instead of the time they left Keene, as did Col. Stark, Capt. Wyman and many others.[2] These make twenty-six of the thirty, leaving four still to be accounted for.

The company made its march of eighty-five miles in two days, arriving at Medford on the 23d.

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[1] On the roll as from Surry, but a member of this company, and wounded at Bunker Hill.

Petition of Charles Rice, Bunker Hill soldier, 1791:

"To the honb'le the Senate and house of Representatives in General Court convened at Concord.—Humbly Shews, Charles Rice of Keene, that in the year 1775 being a Soldier in Captain Jeremiah Stiles's Company & Col° John Starks Regiment he received a most distressing wound through the breast at the memorable battle of Bunker Hill—which has ever since rendered it impossible for him to gain a comfortable subsistence for himself—much more for a numerous family which daily look to him for that assistance which he would most readily afford were it in his power.—That your petitioner has never received the least assistance from his Country being entirely ignorant of any feasible method of making application—He therefore prays your Honorable body to compassionate his case and lend him such assistance as in your clemency you shall judge proper—And as in duty bound ever prays Jeremiah Stiles in behalf of the petitioner"

(State Papers, vol. 12, page 318.)

[2] In Gilmore's "New Hampshire Men at Bunker Hill" Tiffany and Blake are put down as from Goffstown, but correspondence with the town clerk of that town and others in that vicinity fails to discover their names as residents of Goffstown, at that time or any other, and it is evident—their "residence" not being given—that they were put down as from that town simply because they were in the company of Capt. Richards of Goffstown.

JABEZ DANIELS HOUSE, COURT STREET. BUILT BEFORE 1775.

The same intense excitement and promptness of action were everywhere to be seen. The Swanzey company of sixty-two men, under Captain (afterwards Colonel) Joseph Hammond, started at daylight.[1] To each of the little towns away from the main lines of travel the only roads were those bridle paths, though some of them—as was the case between New Ipswich and Keene—had been regularly laid out by the towns. At Packersfield (Nelson), the tidings were received about the same time as at Keene, and the men were rallied during the afternoon and night. There were but thirty-four men in that town of suitable age to go, and twenty-seven of them marched at sunrise under Lieut. Abijah Brown. And some other towns did equally well.

This shows a condition of public sentiment in Keene which needs explanation. At that time Keene had a fully organized military company which numbered, in 1773, 127 officers and men, besides an "alarm list," or home guard, of the older men, which numbered forty-five. In 1775, those companies must have been still larger; yet Keene turned out but thirty men.

The explanation is that the colonel of the militia regiment here, one of the wealthiest, most active, and most prominent men in the county, was Josiah Willard, then living in Winchester—the same who had commanded the company here in 1748—and he was a tory. His son, Josiah Willard,[1] major of the regiment, lived here, had been Keene's first representative to the legislature in 1768-70, was at this time, and had been for several years, recorder of deeds, and had much influence in the town, and he, too, was a tory. Lieut. Benjamin Hall,[2] who for four years had been Keene's representative in the colonial assembly, was a tory. Elijah Williams, the bright young lawyer of the town, a graduate of Harvard college, was a tory. Dr. Josiah Pomeroy, a leading physician of the town, was a tory. Breed Batcheller, the second major of

[1] Revolutionary Rolls, vol. 1, page 36. Swanzey Town History says "at sunrise."

[2] Major Willard, Lieut. Hall, Samuel Wadsworth, John Swan and probably some of the others, afterwards took the side of the patriots and regained their positions as trusted and respected citizens; and John Swan volunteered and served in Col. Isaac Wyman's regiment in 1776, and Major Willard was one of those whose pay for services in the patriot cause was adjusted in 1788.

the regiment, more widely known in Keene, where he had been a citizen, than in Packersfield, where he then lived, was a tory. There were thirteen of them in the town, besides Batcheller, and nearly all were men of property and influence. They did not believe it possible for the patriots to succeed, and, as a matter of prudence and policy, they believed it their duty to stand by the royal government. But for their adverse influence there can be no doubt that the number of volunteers from Keene would have been very much larger.

Nearly every town in the province sent volunteers. Two thousand New Hampshire men were on the ground at Cambridge and Medford by the 23d, and with those from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, formed an unorganized army of nearly 20,000 men—without uniforms and many of them without equipments.

On the 22d, Gen. Artemas Ward of Massachusetts was appointed a major general in the service of that province, and assumed command of all the troops. Stark, the veteran Indian fighter from Derryfield (Manchester), N. H., was there on the 22d, and was ordered by Gen. Ward to take position at Chelsea with 300 men, forming the extreme left of the American line, which extended to Roxbury. Boston was now completely inclosed on the land side, the patriots began to throw up intrenchments all along their lines, and the city, with the British army therein, was in a state of siege.

As there was no staff organization from New Hampshire on the ground, and no rations, ammunition, or supplies of any kind provided by the authorities of that province, New Hampshire men were advised to enlist for the time being into the service of Massachusetts in order to draw rations and quarters. An arrangement of that kind was made by a committee of the New Hampshire provincial congress with one from that of Massachusetts—the men to be accounted for on the quota of New Hampshire—and supplies were issued to some of the New Hampshire troops by the commissaries of Massachusetts.[1]

[1] Commissions were issued to Stark and Reed as colonels, April 26, by the Massachusetts committee of safety, which were accepted to continue till New Hampshire acted. (McClintock's History of New Hampshire, page 332.)

To form their own separate organization the New Hampshire officers met at Medford on the 26th and elected field officers. John Stark was chosen colonel, Isaac Wyman of Keene, lieutenant colonel, and Andrew McClary of Epsom, major of the First New Hampshire regiment. Stark, being the senior and most experienced officer on the ground, was recommended by the meeting "to take charge of all New Hampshire troops in the field." (The room in which the officers met was called "New Hampshire Hall" afterwards.) The next day, Col. Stark established his headquarters at Medford, by order of Gen. Ward. Lieut. Jeremiah Stiles succeeded to the command of the Keene company, and was afterwards commissioned captain.

Most of the men who had gathered in such haste around Boston were farmers, impatient to strike a blow for their country, or to be at home to plant their crops and attend to their affairs. Seeing no prospect of immediate action at the front, large numbers of them returned to their homes—many of them with the consent of their officers, others without asking consent. There was no power to hold them because they had not yet signed enlisting papers in any regular service; and, in some cases, they were advised by their commanders to go home and prepare for a war of indefinite length.

Four of our Keene men came home, but ten others stood ready to take their places; or, very likely the same men, or some of them, soon returned to the front. It is altogether probable that some of these later volunteers were in that first company.

The names of those who joined—or rejoined—the company at Medford in time to be present at the battle of Bunker Hill were:

Benjamin Archer, appointed sergeant May 26.
Ebenezer Cook, appointed sergeant May 15.
Joseph Gray, } enlisted May 15.
William Gray, } sons of Aaron Gray of Gray's Hill.
Samuel Hall,[1] enlisted May 15.
Benjamin Hall (son of Samuel), enlisted May 15.

[1] Entered on this roll as from Rockingham, but reported ever afterwards as from Keene, was a citizen of Keene for many years previous and following, was in the military company here in 1773, and doubtless went from Keene at this time.

Hannaniah Hall, enlisted May 15.
David Harris, enlisted May 8.
Stephen Larabee, enlisted May 8.
Thomas Morse, enlisted May 15.

Silas French and Tilley Howe joined after the battle of Bunker Hill; and the name of Jonathan Wheeler of Keene appears on a later roll of the same company.[1]

In the meantime the excitement among the people at home was intense. Upon the alarm of the 19th, the committee of safety of New Hampshire sent runners to the several towns asking them to send delegates to a convention to be held at Exeter on the 21st, to consult for the general safety. The inhabitants of Keene came together hurriedly and without legal notice, on the 27th, and "Chose Lieut. Timothy Ellis[2] a Delegate to meet the Committee at Exeter, and, as a member, to sit in the provincial Congress at Exeter whenever they may convene." That convention of the 21st, sometimes called the Third Provincial congress, appointed Col. Nathaniel Folsom of Exeter a brigadier general to command the New Hampshire troops around Boston, and recommended the several towns to provide their proportion of £500 worth of biscuit, flour and pork for the public use; and that they "engage as many men in each town as they may think fit to be properly equipt & ready to march at a minute's warning on any emergency." A special committee was appointed to procure arms and ammunition for the towns.

On the 4th of May the regular assembly of the province was called together at Portsmouth by proclamation of Gov. Wentworth. Capt. Isaac Wyman was the member of the house of representatives for Keene, but he was in the army and did not attend.[3]

[1] "Soon after the battle of Lexington, several tories, among whom was Elijah Williams Esq., left this vicinity, and joined the British, in Boston.' (Annals, page 41.)

[2] "He expressed his willingness to accept the office, but declared that he had not, and could not, in season, procure money enough to bear his expenses. The inhabitants, thereupon, voted that he might draw from the treasury four pounds, lawful money." (Annals, page 41.)

[3] In his speech the governor urged upon the legislature "a Restoration of our Harmony with Great Britain." On the 6th, "in his Majesty's name he adjourned the General Assembly" to the 12th of June. A few of the members met on that day according to adjournment, but adjourned from day to day, and no business was transacted. On the 15th of July the governor sent in his last message, and ordered an adjournment till September; but the general assembly of the province under the government of Great Britain never met afterwards. Governor John Wentworth, an upright, honorable man, maintained himself in nominal power until September, when he abdicated, and sailed away in a British frigate.

Soon after the meeting of the convention at Exeter, in April, the committee of safety for the province sent formal notices to the towns to send delegates to a convention to be held at Exeter on the 17th of May. This convention was called the Fourth Provincial congress. Great enthusiasm prevailed during its session. A patriotic address was issued to the people, leniency towards debtors was recommended, and effective measures were adopted. It established a post office at Portsmouth and provided for post riders to other points. It resolved "to raise immediately Two Thousand Effective Men in this Province Including officers & those of this Province already in the service;" "that every member pledge his Honor & Estate in the name of his Constituents to pay their proportion of maintaining and paying the officers & soldiers of the above number while in the service;" and "that the Selectmen of the several Towns & Districts within this colony be desired to furnish the soldiers who shall inlist from their respective Towns and districts with good & sufficient Blankets & render their accounts to the Committee of Supplies." Col. Matthew Thornton, Col. Josiah Bartlett, Capt. Wm. Whipple, Col. Nathaniel Folsom and Ebenezer Thompson, Esq., were appointed the committee of safety. Col. Nicholas Gilman and six others were appointed a committee of supplies.

The 2,000 men raised were divided into three regiments of ten companies each, sixty-two men to the company. Stark, by far the most experienced and capable soldier in the province, was indignant because political influence had placed Folsom, who had remained at home where he could meet the members of the convention, over him, who had been at the front in command of the troops. But the colonelcy of the First regiment was left open for Stark if he chose to accept it, and Enoch Poor of Exeter was appointed colonel of the Second.

Stark was sent for and appeared before the convention, explained his conduct, which had been somewhat insubordinate towards Gen. Folsom, and accepted the commission offered him. Isaac Wyman of Keene was confirmed as lieutenant colonel and Andrew McClary of Epsom as major of the same regiment.

Poor's regiment, raised in the eastern and central parts of the province, was held for the protection of the New Hampshire coast, and did not join the main army until after the battle of Bunker Hill.

Upon the alarm of the 19th of April, James Reed of Fitzwilliam, afterwards for many years a resident of Keene, who had been a captain in the French and Indian wars and had risen to the rank of lieutenant colonel, had hastened to the front at the head of a company of volunteers and joined the other New Hampshire troops. Finding the army at Cambridge in an unorganized condition, he "beat up" for volunteers for the purpose of forming a regiment. He also engaged Andrew Colburn, of Marlboro, a veteran of the Indian wars, who afterwards rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel, and others, to enlist men for him in Cheshire county. He went to Exeter and laid before members of the convention his claims to a commission, and on the 1st day of June was appointed colonel of the Third regiment. Israel Gilman, of Exeter, was appointed lieutenant colonel, Nathan Hale, of Rindge, major; and ten recruiting officers were appointed to enlist men to complete his regiment, eight of whom were afterwards captains under him. Under verbal orders from Gen. Folsom, he came immediately to Cheshire county, collected the recruits that had been enlisted for him, marched them to Cambridge, reported to Gen. Ward on the 12th, and was directed to go to Medford, where his other companies had been sent from Cambridge, and collect his recruits; and he received the following written order:

"Head Quarters, June the 12th 1775.

"GENERAL ORDERS—That Coll. Reed quarter his Regiment in the houses near Charlestown Neck and keep all necessary Guards between his Barracks and the Ferrey and on Bunker's Hill.

(Signed) "J. Ward Sectary Copy for James Reed."

Stark had more than ten companies and two of his—those of Captains Whitcomb of Swanzey and Thomas of Rindge—were transferred to Reed, who marched his regiment of ten companies, numbering more than five hundred men present for duty, to Charlestown Neck on the 13th,

and posted a guard of one captain, two lieutenants and forty-eight men as directed.

On the afternoon of Friday, the 16th, Gen. Ward placed Col. William Prescott of Pepperell in command of a detachment of a little less than 1,000 men, including two pieces of artillery and a company of Connecticut troops under Capt. Knowlton, with orders to take all the intrenching tools, their packs, and provisions for twenty-four hours, and proceed to Charlestown Neck.[1] The detachment paraded on Cambridge common—ordered at 6 o'clock but somewhat delayed—a ration of rum was served to the men from a hogshead brought to the spot, and at 9 o'clock, after a prayer by President Langdon of Harvard college, the column moved, silently, with two sergeants to lead the way, carrying dark lanterns open only to the rear.

Halting within the lines of Col. Reed's regiment, Prescott there received further orders to fortify Bunker's hill and hold his ground until relieved. Gen. Ward's chief engineer, the veteran Col. Gridley, was with him to lay out the works; and Gen. Putnam and other officers of high rank were also with him, but without commands.

Bunker's hill, one mile from the point where the British landed, sloped towards the bay, and, about half way down the ridge, rose again in a smaller elevation called Breed's hill. This point was believed by those experienced officers to be the better position and was selected as the place for the redoubt. The plan of the fortifications was marked out, the sentinels placed along the shore, and at midnight the work began. Strict silence was enjoined upon the men, for six vessels of war carrying about 170 guns and 1,000 men lay within range, and the "All's well!" of the British sentinels along the Boston shore could be distinctly heard. So vigorously was the work pushed that at daylight, a little after 3 o'clock, there was a breastwork six feet high on every escarpment of the redoubt. From the northern angle a ditch and breastwork were extended about 100 yards towards Mystic river. All sides

[1] A somewhat extended account of the battle is given for the reasons that it was the bloodiest fight that could be called a "battle," in proportion to the numbers engaged, that has ever been fought on American soil; and that Keene had a larger proportion of its men in that battle than in any other, in any war.

of the hill were open fields, except on the south and southwest, where lay the village of Charlestown.

As daylight disclosed the works on the hill, the sentinels on the vessels gave the alarm. Fire was immediately opened from the men-of-war, and soon afterwards from the battery on Copp's hill. Both armies and the inhabitants of Boston and the surrounding towns were rudely awakened to a great and memorable day; and there was excitement and confusion in both camps. Prescott foresaw the impending attack and called for reinforcements.

Stark with his regiment of more than 600 men, larger, better appointed, and better disciplined than any other in the army, lay at Medford. Early in the morning Gen. Ward sent him an order to reinforce Prescott with 200 men.[1] He immediately detailed Lt. Col. Wyman to command the detachment, and sent them forward as soon as they could be supplied with ammunition. Anxious to know the exact condition of affairs, he soon afterwards mounted his horse and galloped across the Neck and over the hills to the redoubt, passing Col. Wyman with his detachment in the hollow between Winter and Ploughed hills, about two miles from the redoubt, and quickly returned to his regiment.

Urged by the Massachusetts committee of safety, at 11 o'clock[2] Gen. Ward sent orders to both Stark and Reed to reinforce Prescott with their whole force. But Stark was four miles away and ammunition had not been distributed except to guards and pickets. He immediately drew up his men in front of the building used for an arsenal, and each man was given a gill cup of powder, fifteen balls[3] and one spare flint. A few cartridges were made, but very few of the men had cartridge-boxes, or paper for cartridges. Some took their powder in powder-horns, others in their waistcoat pockets. Their guns were of various calibres and some of the balls had to be hammered and others wound with patches to make them fit. Col. Reed's men

[1] Gen. Ward feared to weaken his centre lest he should be attacked at that point, and therefore reinforced Prescott from his left wing.

[2] Stark stated that it was "about 2 o'clock" when he received the order; but he was on the ground before the battle began, which was "about 3 o'clock."

[3] Lead had been taken from the organ pipes in the church at Cambridge and wherever it could be obtained and run into bullets.

were supplied in the same way and under the same difficulties. It took two hours to prepare the ammunition. Then, "about one o'clock," the veteran colonel began his march, with the roar of the British cannon—the prelude of the battle—testing the nerves of his men.

Crossing the Neck at a deliberate pace under a raking fire from some of the ships—which had deterred other troops, who were lying there—a young captain[1] marching by the colonel's side ventured to suggest that it might be well to quicken the step. Stark's reply was: "One fresh man in action is worth ten tired[2] ones," and he would not hasten. A little before 3 o'clock he arrived near the ground; [3] halted his column for a few minutes; went forward to speak with Prescott; [4] returned to his men; made them a short, spirited address; had them give three cheers, and then moved them to the left, and took position about 200 yards to the rear of the fortifications, his line extending down to Mystic river, to prevent a flank movement by the enemy in that direction. It was ebb tide, the beach at that place was strewn with rocks, and Stark directed his men to throw those up for a breastwork at that end of the line.

Col. Reed had moved his regiment to the front and formed on Capt. Knowlton's left—who had taken position with his company of Connecticut troops in rear of the redoubt, facing Mystic river—Reed's line turning at nearly a right angle towards the river. Stark now formed on his left, completing the line from the fortifications to the water's edge, with the exception of a gap of about 100 yards next to the ditch and breastwork, which was covered by the fire of the New Hampshire regiments. Two companies of artillery took position in this gap, but withdrew to the rear soon after the battle began and did little service. Capt. Crosby's company of Reed's regiment was detached and stationed, with other troops, on Main street,

[1] Henry Dearborn of Nottingham, afterwards, in the war of 1812, a major general and commander-in-chief of the United States army.

[2] Some quotations make him say *fatigued*, but he was not the man to use a long French word when a short English one was better.

[3] Yankee Doodle had been played by the British in ridicule of the Provincials, who now used it for the first time in defiance of the British. (Address of Rev. Geo. E. Ellis, June 17, 1841.)

[4] Communication to New Hampshire Patriot in 1818, by Major Joseph Dow, of Hampton Falls, who was present in Stark's regiment.

at the foot of Breed's hill, forming the extreme right of the line and protecting that flank. The day was hot, and many of the men, particularly of Reed's regiment, whose camp was near the battle ground, left their packs and some even their coats, expecting to return for them, and they were afterwards paid for clothing and other articles lost that day.

The day before, the grass on the north slope of the hill had been cut for hay and still lay on the ground. A breastwork, which Capt. Knowlton's men had begun, was made along the greater part of the New Hampshire line, where there was a rail fence, by bringing others that stood near and setting them to make two parallel lines[1] about three feet apart and filling the space with the hay, well trod in, which the men brought in their arms.[2] Hay packed in that way would stop many of the musket balls, as they were fired in those days. A British letter after the battle says, "It was found to be the strongest post ever occupied by any set of men."

The New Hampshire line thus formed two sides of a rectangle which the enemy must enter to make their attack on that wing. And this was the key to the position, because the only sensible move the British could make was to direct their main attack against this line with the view of turning the American left and getting in rear of the redoubt. And that was exactly what they did. It was here that Gen. Howe himself commanded, with his grenadiers and light infantry, with field artillery—"the flower of his troops"—and the most sanguinary fighting was done in the two first assaults.

It was Saturday afternoon. The British had begun to land from their boats at 1 o'clock. At 3 o'clock, they had about 3,000 men on the ground, with Gen. Howe in command. The barges were sent back to the Boston side, to

[1] The fence that was already there a part of the distance, was a low stone wall topped with two rails, and another line of posts and rails was set in front to hold the hay. This was made chiefly by Reed's and Knowlton's men, probably ordered by Putnam, as Stark arrived only a few minutes before the battle began.

[2] I had this when a boy from my grandfather, Nehemiah Wright, who was present in Reed's regiment, and assisted in building those fences and fired from behind them; and tradition brought down the same account from my grandfather, Samuel Griffin, who was also present in the same regiment, and fought behind the rail fence.—S. G. G.

prevent the flight of the men—for then it was "conquer or die." "They were supplied with large tubs of drink to prepare them for the onset."[1]

They formed in two columns, the left, under Gen. Pigot, directed against the redoubt, the right, as stated above, making the principal attack against the rail fence.

On our side the field officers passed along the lines, encouraging the men and giving them directions to hold their fire until the British were close upon them; telling them to "fire low;" "aim at the waist;" "powder is scarce, don't waste it;" "wait till you can see the whites of their eyes." Stark stepped out about forty yards in front, stuck a stick in the ground, and said to his men: "Don't fire a shot till the redcoats come up to that stick and I say the word."

The British advanced with steady step, in closed columns, halting and deploying when well up towards our lines with the coolness and precision of a dress parade; and then the line of battle moved forward in perfect order, halting to fire now and then, but without aim and shooting over and doing little harm.

When they had reached the mark, "Fire!" shouted Stark, and a deadly volley of rattling musketry burst from the whole line followed by another as soon as they could load. Nothing could withstand such a fire. The British wavered, broke and fled. The smoke lifted and disclosed the ground strewn with dead and dying, and hundreds were wounded who were able to escape, but not to return. A few of our men rushed forward to pursue, but were restrained by their officers.

By great exertions of their officers the British were rallied at the water's edge and reformed; and again they advanced to the charge. Charlestown was set on fire and destroyed, but most of the inhabitants had fled, not more than two or three hundred remaining of a population of between two and three thousand.

Gen. Putnam, at the rear, was making strenuous efforts to fortify Bunker's hill for a rallying point in case of disaster; carrying intrenching tools from the redoubt for

[1] Col. Swett.

that purpose, and urging forward reinforcements, very few of whom reached the front line; and there was great confusion on that part of the field. Putnam and Col. Gerrish had 1,000 to 1,500 men on Bunker's hill and behind it, only half a mile away, who gave Stark and Prescott no assistance and took no part in the action;[1] but suffered loss in the retreat.

The British advanced as steadily as at first. The patriot fire was withheld until they were even nearer than before, and when they were within thirty yards another deadly volley burst upon them, and again they broke and fled in disorder. The slaughter was even greater than before.

Again by the determined efforts of their officers they were rallied—in some cases by blows and other force—reinforcements were sent them, and Gen. Clinton hastened across from Boston to aid in the assault.

On the patriots' side a few scattering squads of reinforcements joined them, but too late and too few to be effective. Their ammunition was now almost wholly expended. A few artillery cartridges remained and those were broken open and the powder distributed among the infantry.

The British officers knew the Americans had but little ammunition, and this information, spread among their troops, encouraged them to renew the fight. This time the assault was concentrated on the redoubt. Gen. Howe directed his men to lay off their knapsacks, advance in column, reserve their fire, and carry the works at the point of the bayonet.

The patriots could give no more such volleys as before, for they were out of powder; and they had almost no bayonets with which to meet such a charge.

To aid his movement and insure success, Howe advanced a strong column of the grenadiers of his right wing, with artillery, which, instead of attacking the New Hampshire troops at the rail fence, turned to the works on the hill, placed their cannon to enfilade the breastwork running

[1] Gerrish was cashiered for cowardice, and "Col. Prescott never ceased to reprobate Putnam for his behavior that day," although he exhibited great personal courage. Stark also denounced him for his lack of judgment.

out from the north angle, and swept that part of the works with a fire so destructive that the Americans were forced to abandon it. The British then advanced and entered the redoubt by the rear, and Prescott and his men were compelled to retreat.

During this last assault the New Hampshire men lay behind the rail fence, powerless to drive back the British right wing from want of ammunition. Half a dozen more rounds to each man would have saved the day. As it was, seeing the enemy on their right flank and themselves liable to be cut off, a retreat was ordered and our New Hampshire men retired over Bunker's hill in comparatively good order, holding the enemy in check and aiding Prescott and his men to escape. These, with the disorganized troops with Putnam and Gerrish, formed a crowd of fugitives retreating over and beyond the hill upon whom the British turned their fire, and the heaviest loss of the day on the American side was on that ground. Some of the enemy's vessels in Mystic river also had a cross fire on them as they passed the Neck, and there the gallant McClary, major of Stark's regiment, was killed by a cannon ball. He had "hastened to the rear for bandages and was returning to his command." The battle lasted one hour and a half.

That night the New Hampshire troops slept on their arms at Winter hill, one mile from Bunker's hill, and the next day began to intrench. All along the line defensive works were renewed, and the siege of Boston began in earnest. The British occupied Bunker's hill and intrenched.

The loss of the enemy was not less than eleven hundred men, killed and wounded, or about thirty-three per cent of their whole number engaged.[1] Speaking of the ground in his front, Stark said: "The dead lay as thick as sheep in a fold."[2] Of a veteran regiment of Welsh

[1] Rev. Geo. E. Ellis in his "History of the Battle of Bunker's Hill," puts the British force at 5,000; but that is evidently on exaggeration of the number actually engaged. Gage reported a loss of 1,054, which, of course, would be as favorable as he could make it. Well informed Americans believed it to be not less than 1,500.

[2] "An eye-witness counted the next day, in front of the wall, betwixt the Mystic and the swarded ground of the hill, ninety-six dead bodies, and this was after the officers and the wounded had been removed." (Adjutant General's Report, page 272.)

fusileers, 700 strong, in front of the New Hampshire line, only 83 were present for duty the next day.[1]

Conclusive proof of the importance of the position and work of the New Hampshire troops on that day, is found in the fact that the loss of the grenadiers[2] and light infantry in their front was almost two-thirds of their whole number of killed and wounded, or about double the average of the British loss on that day.[3]

Rev. Geo. E. Ellis, already referred to, and one or two other writers represent that Putnam commanded the whole line to the left of the redoubt, but nearly all articles published soon after the event agree that Putnam had no command whatever except two companies from Connecticut. Stark and Reed each commanded his own regiment, but Stark, being the senior officer and having been placed by the votes of the field officers on the 26th of April in charge of all the New Hampshire troops, was really in command of the whole New Hampshire line, and should share with Prescott the honor of the chief command at Bunker Hill.

"The battle began with the intention of flanking the redoubt by breaking the fence line. It ended by flanking the fence by carrying the redoubt. The New Hampshire and Connecticut men, with such Massachusetts men as were with them, were not beaten that day; they were simply flanked."[4]

"We have the full conviction that the time will come, when the whole nation will give the honors of the battle of Bunker Hill largely to the common soldiers of New Hampshire, who, more than any other men, fought it. * * * * The men at the redoubt who patiently endured and suffered to the end, are worthy of all honor. But the battle was fought chiefly by the soldiers of New Hampshire, whose muskets killed and wounded probably two

1 "Our light infantry was served up in companies against the grass fence, without being able to penetrate;—indeed how could we penetrate? Most of our grenadiers and light infantry, the moment of presenting themselves, lost three-fourths, and many nine-tenths of their men. Some had only eight and nine men a company left; some only three, four and five." (Letter of English officer, dated July 5, 1775.)

2 "All the grenadiers of the 4th, or King's regiment (one company), were killed or wounded except four; and of the grenadiers of the 23d, or Royal Welsh Fusileers, only three remained that were not killed or wounded. (Letter of Lieut. John Clarke of the British army.)

3 "A few days ago the shattered remains of the 18th regiment of foot, which was engaged in the action at Bunker's Hill, and reduced to only twenty-five men, arrived at Maidstone." (British newspaper, March 5, 1776.)

4 Tarbox's Life of Israel Putnam, page 197.

out of three in that list of ten hundred and fifty-four, which General Gage reported to the home government.

"If a monument is to be erected upon that battle ground to any colonel, it should be to Colonel Stark of New Hampshire, whose services in the strife were more important than those of any other man bearing that title." [1] And he might have said, or any other title.

The loss of the Americans was about 450, or nearly thirty per cent of their whole number actually engaged in the fight; for the whole number in their line of battle, including the redoubt, according to the most careful investigations, could not have been much above 1,700 men. Of those more than 1,100[2] were from New Hampshire. Stark and Reed, according to their own reports, had fully 1,000 in their two regiments after allowing for all absentees. Capt. Reuben Dow, of Hollis, had a whole company in Prescott's regiment; and there were as many more, from that and other New Hampshire towns in the same and other commands, in the front line. Allowing 200 to Connecticut, leaves 400 as the number furnished by Massachusetts, which is more than twice as many as Col. Prescott himself estimated.

Nearly all the Massachusetts regiments named as being in the fight never reached the line of battle, but were present only at the rear and in the retreat.

Worn out with the fatigues of the night Prescott's men had slipped away for rest and for the refreshments which had been promised but never came, or were led away by Putnam with intrenching tools, until he was left, when the action begun, with about 150 men. In his letter to John Adams, written by request, dated August 25, 1775, Prescott distinctly states that his engineer forsook him; that (speaking of the artillery fire that opened on them just before sunrise) "About this time, the above field officers (Col. Bridge and one or two others) being indisposed, could render me but little service, and the most of the men under their command deserted the party. The

[1] Tarbox's Life of Israel Putnam, pages 339-40.

[2] Recent investigations by Col. Geo. C. Gilmore, president of the board of trustees of the New Hampshire State library and special commissioner on this subject appointed by the governor and council, place the number of New Hampshire soldiers present in the battle above 1,600. But some of them were in the retreat only.

enemy continuing an incessant fire with their artillery, about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, on the seventeenth, the enemy began to land at a northeasterly point from the fort, and I ordered the train, with two field-pieces, to go and oppose them, and the Connecticut forces to support them; but the train marched a different course, and I believe those sent to their support followed, I suppose to Bunker's Hill. * * * * About an hour after the enemy landed, they began to march to the attack in three columns. I commanded my Lieut. Col. Robinson and Major Woods, each with a detachment, to flank the enemy, who, I have reason to think, behaved with prudence and courage. I was now left with perhaps one hundred and fifty men in the fort." And the detachments of Robinson and Woods must have been small.

Tracing the movements of our Keene men, we learn that, the night before the battle, Capt. Stiles, who was still in Stark's regiment, was detailed with half his company to guard the premises—"Ten Hill Farm"—of Robert Temple, a tory, and was not relieved until 10 o'clock the next morning, when the party was ordered to Medford for refreshments and thence to Ploughed hill near the Neck, to wait for further orders; that they arrived there about half past 2 o'clock, just before the action began; that Gen. Putnam came at full gallop across the Neck to Capt. Stiles and addressing the men said, "Up, my brave boys, for God's sake; we drive them;" that Capt. Stiles immediately led his men in single file across the Neck and arrived at Breed's hill in time to take part in the battle. This is taken from a sworn statement made in June, 1818, by Samuel Bassett of Keene, fifer in Stiles's company, who was with this detached party. He carried his musket in the action and states that he discharged five or six rounds and received a flesh wound in his thigh (so slight that he was not reported wounded, as is often the case in battle), after which several minutes elapsed before the retreat began.

The other half of Stiles's company remained with the regiment and went to the front, either with Lt. Col. Wyman "early in the morning," or with Col. Stark in the

afternoon. Asahel Nims, a sergeant in Stiles's company, was killed in the action—tradition says "at the rail fence." His brother Eliakim was with him at the time, in the same company. Stephen Day was mortally and Charles Rice severely wounded. Therefore there can be no doubt that the Keene company was present in the front line of battle.

Stark does not mention Stiles and his company in his report of the battle, probably for what he deemed sufficient reasons, namely, that Stiles had been detailed with half his company and had not rejoined the regiment; that he had more companies than he was entitled to and Stiles's was soon afterwards transferred to another regiment, and it appears that such an arrangement had already been made but not yet consummated; therefore he may have felt that he had no control over that company.

Lt. Col. Wyman had been sent, as stated, with 200 men to reinforce Prescott, but he has never been reported as having reached the redoubt, and from all accounts it is altogether probable that Putnam seized that detachment to work on his intrenchments on Bunker's hill; and that when Stark passed them on his march to the front he took Wyman and his men with him; for Stark was not the man to allow his regiment to be divided at such a time by an officer who had no authority, or to leave a part of it digging ditches at the rear when he was ordered into action with "the whole of my regiment."[1] Major Dow, already referred to, also states that that detachment joined the regiment as it passed Bunker's hill.

That Col. Wyman did good service somewhere that day is evident from the fact he was soon afterwards recommended for promotion by Gen. Folsom, who stated that "he has behaved prudently, courageously and very much like a gentleman;" and the next year he was promoted to the rank of colonel and given the command of a regiment in the Continental army.

Besides the thirty-six men from Keene already named who were in the battle, John Brown[2] and Robert Worsley[3]

[1] Stark's Report.

[2] Brown is on one roll as from Marlboro, but he was a member of the militia company here in 1773, and his name appears on the records as a town officer of Keene.

[3] Worsley has been claimed as a resident of Marlboro, but his enlistment and service are credited to Keene.

were in the company of Capt. Benjamin Mann of Mason; and Joshua Ellis and Abraham Griffin (or Griffith), in that of Capt. Jonathan Whitcomb of Swanzey—all in Reed's regiment. Ellis was a son of Lieut. Timothy Ellis, seventeen years old, and was severely wounded.

Timothy Crossfield, nineteen years old, enlisted in the company of Capt. Edward Burbeck, of the artillery, on the 1st day of July—fourteen days after the battle—as Ebenezer Billings had done on the 29th of June from Stiles's company. Possibly Crossfield was in the battle; and he may have been one of the thirty who marched from Keene on the 21st of April, enlisting into some other company, as several others did. Gilmore has him on his list as in the battle, and from Stiles's company; but the latter statement is evidently an error as his name does not appear on any one of Stiles's rolls; and we find no other evidence of his having been in the service previous to July 1.

Thomas Douglass of Keene enlisted in Gould's company, Sargent's regiment, in time to join Arnold's expedition to Canada in August and he may have been in the battle—and even one of the immortal thirty—under similar conditions as Crossfield, but we have no farther record of him. Robert Worsley also joined the expedition to Canada.

These make in all forty men from Keene in the battle of Bunker Hill—forty-two if Crossfield and Douglass were there—and there may have been others whose names are lost. That was more than five per cent of the whole number of inhabitants in the town at that time.

Capt. Stiles and his company remained in Stark's regiment until the 3d day of July. On that day, or between that and the 7th they were transferred, with the company of Capt. Wm. Scott of Peterboro, to the regiment of Col. Paul Dudley Sargent of Amherst, N. H., in the service of Massachusetts. No roll of enlistment of the Keene company in Stark's regiment has been found, but the enlistments into Sargent's regiment were dated back to the time the men left home, those of most of our Keene men being April 21. Their term was for eight months.

The following roll does not appear in the New

Hampshire Revolutionary Rolls, but is taken from those of Massachusetts.

"Roll of Capt. Jeremiah Stiles's company in Col. Paul Dudley Sargent's regiment, August 1st, 1775.

Men's names.	Town.	Rank.	Time enlisted.
Jeremiah Stiles,	Keene,	Captain,	April 21.
Lemuel Holmes,	Walpole,	Lieutenant,	April 21.
John Griggs,	Keene,	Ensign,	April 21.
Samuel White,	Keene,	Sergeant,	April 21.
Ebenezer Cook,	Keene,	Sergeant,	May 15.
Ezra Metcalf,	Keene,	Sergeant,	April 21.
Asahel Nims,	Keene,	Sergeant,	April 21.
Benjamin Archer,	Keene,	Sergeant,	May 26.
Frederic Tubbs,	Marlow,	Corporal,	April 21.
Luke Metcalf,	Keene,	Corporal,	April 21.
Benjamin Ellis,	Keene,	Corporal,	April 21.
Niles Beckwith,	Lamster,	Corporal,	May 15.
David Hubbard,	Ackworth,	Drummer,	April 21.
Samuel Bassett,	Keene,	Freamer,	April 21.
David Adams,	Gilsum,	Private,	May 15.
John Baker,	Rockingham,	Private,	May 15.
Robert Busby,	Medford,	Private,	May 15.
Henry Bemis,	Packersfield,	Private,	April 21.
Elijah Benton,	Surry,	Private,	July 14.
Ebenezer Billings,	Keene,	Private,	April 21.
Simeon Church,	Marlow,	Private,	April 21,
Thomas Church,	Gilsum,	Private,	May 15.
Iddo Church,	Gilsum,	Private,	May 15.
Nathan Closson,	Walpole,	Private,	May 15.
Thomas Clark,	Pomphrett,	Private,	April 21.
Stephen Day,	Keene,	Private,	April 21.
Jesse Dassance,	Keene,	Private,	April 21.
Thomas Dart,	Surry,	Private,	July 14.
Roger Dart,	Surry,	Private,	July 14.
Timothy Dewey,	Gilsum,	Private,	April 21.
Caleb Ellis,	Keene,	Private,	April 21.
James Eddy,	Keene,	Private,	April 21,
John Fletcher,	Walpole,	Private,	April 21.
Samuel Fletcher,	Marlow,	Private,	April 21.
Joshua Fuller,	Surry,	Private,	July 14.
Silas French,	Keene,	Private,	July 14.
Isaac Griswold,	Gilsum,	Private,	April 21.
Hugh Gray,	Keene,	Private,	April 21.
William Gray,	Keene,	Private,	May 15.
Joseph Gray,	Keene,	Private,	May 15.
David Howard,	Marlow,	Private,	April 21.
Joseph Howard,	Marlow,	Private,	April 21.
Nathan Hayward,	Surry,	Private,	July 14.

Nathan Huntley,	Marlow,	Private,	April 21.
Hannaniah Hall,	Keene,	Private,	May 15.
Benjamin Hall,	Keene,	Private,	May 15.
Samuel Hall,	Rockingham,	Private,	May 15.
David Harris,	Keene,	Private,	May 8.
Tilley Howe,	Keene,	Private,	July 14.
Jehiel Holdridge,	Gilsum,	Private,	April 21.
William Joyner,	Walpole,	Private,	July 14.
Eli Lewis,	Marlow,	Private,	April 21.
Stephen Larrabee,	Keene,	Private,	May 8.
Thomas Morse,	Keene.	Private,	May 15.
Jeremiah Mack,	Marlow,	Private,	May 15.
Ezra Morse,	Dublin,	Private,	July 14.
Eliakim Nims,	Keene,	Private,	April 21.
Charles Rice,	Surry,	Private,	April 21.
Aquilla Russell,	Walpole,	Private,	April 21.
John Slade,	Alstead,	Private,	April 21.
Daniel Stone,	Keene,	Private,	April 21.
Joseph Thatcher,	Keene,	Private,	April 21.
Elisha Willis,	Keene,	Private,	April 21.
Daniel Willson,	Keene,	Private,	April 21.
Daniel Wright,	Gilsum,	Private,	April 21.
Joseph Young,	Gilsum,	Private,	April 21.
William Bradley,	Keene,	Private,	April 21.
John Kelly,	Walpole,	Private,	April 21.

"Each man supplied himself with a gun and cartridge box.

"Asahel Nims Died in Battle June 17th 1775.

"Benjamin Archer appointed Serg't June ye 18, 1775.

"Ebenezer Billings Inlisted into the Train of Artillery, June the 29th 1775.

"Stephen Day Died August 17th 1775. (Entered later.)

"The above is a True Muster Roll of my Company according to the Best of my Knowledge.

Jerh Stiles, Capt."

(Jonathan Wheeler, Keene, appears on a later roll.)

When the news of the battle reached New Hampshire the committee of safety ordered Col. Poor with nine companies of his regiment to the front; and Gen. Folsom arrived at Medford on the 20th and took command of the New Hampshire troops. Poor was stationed at Medford, but Stark and Reed held Winter hill and carried forward their intrenching; and the works thrown up by them were more formidable and complete than any others on the line. Stark's regiment was considered the finest in

the army, a model in discipline and efficiency, and Reed's was one of the best.

The British intrenched on Bunker's hill and on Boston Neck; and an attack was expected at any time.

The quarrel between Gen. Folsom and Col. Stark caused them both to be passed by, and congress appointed John Sullivan the brigadier general for New Hampshire. Early in July, Gen. Sullivan appeared at Cambridge with his appointment and was assigned to the command of a brigade composed of the three New Hampshire regiments, with three others from Massachusetts under Cols. Nixon, Mansfield and Doolittle, numbering in all about 3,000 men, in the division of Gen. Charles Lee, who commanded the left wing of the army. The New Hampshire regiments now numbered 1,664 men and the whole army about 17,000. It was at this time that the Keene company was transferred from Stark's to Sargent's regiment, in the centre division of the army under Gen. Putnam, and was stationed at Cambridge.

The term of enlistment of our Keene men expired with the year and Col. Wyman, with Capt. Stiles and most of his men, came home.

The Sixth regiment of the state militia remained the same in extent of territory as in 1773, and was still commanded by Col. Josiah Willard of Winchester, who had strong tory proclivities. To depose him from that command and yet not humiliate him to the extent of driving him over to the enemy, the provincial congress divided his regiment into three, forming all the towns in the southwest corner of Cheshire county, including Surry and Gilsum, into one regiment, numbered the Thirteenth, and appointed Samuel Ashley of Winchester colonel, Joseph Hammond of Swanzey lieutenant colonel, Isaac Butterfield first major, and Timothy Ellis of Keene second major.[1] The other towns in Willard's regiment, north of Westmoreland and Gilsum, were formed into the Fifteenth, with

[1] Those numbers were soon afterwards changed. In 1779 and in 1784 Keene, with all the corner towns, was again in the Sixth, but in 1792, Keene, Westmoreland, Walpole, Surry, Gilsum and Sullivan were numbered the Twentieth regiment, while Hinsdale, Winchester, Richmond, Swanzey and Chesterfield retained the old number, 6; and in both cases the numbers remained the same as long as the system lasted.

Benjamin Bellows of Walpole, colonel; and the Fourteenth was commanded by Col. Enoch Hale of Rindge.

During all these months the colonies were struggling with the great problems of government and carrying on war without powers delegated by the people, or a constitution to govern their conduct. The laws of the old regime were dead letters, the courts were suspended, and there was great confusion and uncertainty in the administration of civil affairs.

There was no authorized power to issue money, but money must be had. Taxes were levied by the towns and by the colony; the people were patriotic and disposed to pay, but currency was distressingly scarce and payment was almost impossible. The colony of New Hampshire had no means of paying its soldiers, or of purchasing military supplies and provisions.

On the 26th of May, 1775, the convention at Exeter authorized its committee of supplies to "Borrow on the faith of this Colony any sum not exceeding ten Thousand Pounds L M as the Committee find necessary to answer the directions from the Comm^{t} of Safety. And this Convention for themselves & Constituents plight their faith and Estates to said Committee of supplies as their Bondmen to all intents & purposes for the payment of whatever sum they hire or Borrow in consequence of this vote." On the 9th of June the convention authorized the receiver general of the colony "to give his Notes of hand on the faith of this Colony" for ten thousand and fifty pounds, and, in July, another issue of ten thousand pounds was ordered; and these emissions continued from time to time.

The general congress had nothing but the faith of the people in a tentative and unorganized government of a rebellion upon which to base the issue of money, but "Necessity knows no law," and in June it issued $2,000,000 in "bills of credit," followed soon afterwards by other issues. In these ways, notwithstanding the disastrous experience of the colonies with paper money in former years, the people were supplied with a transient currency; but they were distrustful of it and its value soon began to depreciate.

The faith of the people in their provincial congress began to wane; those congresses lost confidence in themselves and in their power and ability to provide a proper government for the people; and for a time that of New Hampshire declined to act. In October, her delegates in the Continental congress asked that New Hampshire be allowed to institute a civil government, and on the 3d of November, 1775, leave was granted to call a convention of representatives with power to "Establish such a Form of Government as in their Judgement will best Produce the Happiness of the People, & most Effectually Secure Peace and good order in the Province During the Continuance of the Present Dispute between Great Britain & the Colonies."

The convention was called, each town being allowed one representative except the smaller ones, which were classed in groups of two or more, and Amherst, Chester, Dover, Exeter and Londonderry, which were allowed two each, and Portsmouth three. Among other rules for its guidance it was provided: "That every Legal Inhabitant Paying Taxes shall be a voter; That every Person Elected shall have a Real Estate in this Colony of the value of Two Hundred Pounds lawful money; That no person be allowed a seat in congress who shall by themselves, or any Person at their Desire Treat with Liquors &c any Electors with an apparent view of gaining their Votes, or by Treating after an Election on that Account." That convention met on the 21st of December and was called the Fifth Provincial congress. Keene was represented by Major Timothy Ellis.

The Fourth Provincial congress had dissolved on the 15th of November, 1775, after passing a resolution recommending the people to continue in their usual methods of conducting their town affairs under the former laws, raising and collecting taxes and sustaining the action of their selectmen, constables and other officers. It had been in session since the 17th of May and had transacted a large amount of very important business, as already stated, without constitutional law, but sustained by the approval of the people. Major Timothy Ellis represented Keene and Surry in that congress, was in attendance forty days, and

drew £10 for attendance and £5 for 705 miles travel for both towns.

No judicial courts were held in Cheshire county from 1774 to 1778, and the towns, finding themselves under no general government, instituted governments of their own and enacted laws for the management of their town affairs. Warrants for town meetings were headed simply, Cheshire, ss., and were called by the town clerk upon the order of the selectmen.

A spirited town meeting was held in Keene on the 7th of December, 1775, Thomas Baker, moderator, and Silas Cooke, clerk pro. tem. One of the articles in the warrant was, "to see if it be the mind of the town, that the names of those persons, who buy, sell, or make use of bohea tea, be advertised in the public prints." That article passed in the negative; but "Majr Ellis John Houghton Eliphalet Briggs Junr, Joseph Blake and Daniel Kingsbury" were chosen "a Committee of Inspection to see that the Resolves of the Continental Congress be complied with." The meeting then "unanimously adopted the following Resolves, which may be termed the Statute Law of Keene."

"Whereas, by the unhappy disputes now subsisting between Great Britain and the American Colonies, the laws of several of them have been entirely subverted, or wholly neglected, to the great detriment of society, and of individuals, whereby many disorderly persons, taking undue advantage of the times, as a cloak to put their revengeful designs in execution, do wickedly and maliciously threaten to abuse and destroy the persons and property of many of the good and wholesome inhabitants of the land, and the Executive power being thrown by; and the Congresses, neither Continental or Provincial, have, as yet, found out, or published, any method or system of government, for the security of our persons or property; and until such a system as they in their wisdom shall see fit, or some other, be proposed,—

"We, the inhabitants of the town of Keene, in the county of Cheshire, and province of New-Hampshire, legally convened, being desirous of order and good government, and for the security of our lives, persons and property, do pass the following Resolves:

"1st. It is Resolved, that a committee of three good and steady men of the town, be chosen to act upon, and a proper officer appointed, to prosecute the Resolves hereafter mentioned.

"2d. Whereas, profane cursing and swearing are highly provoking to Almighty God, and offensive to every true Christian, which we fear, if not discountenanced, will provoke the Divine Majesty to bring heavy judgments upon us, and still heavier, deliver us up to the desire of our enemies; to prevent cursing and swearing, be it Resolved, that if any person, or persons, shall profanely curse or swear, and shall be thereof convicted, before the committee, by sufficient witnesses, or by confession of the party, every such offender shall forfeit and pay to the committee, for the use of the poor of said town, a sum not exceeding three shillings, nor less than one; according to the repeatedness of the offense; and pay cost of prosecution, which cost shall be ascertained by the committee, before whom the person shall be convicted; and in case any person, convicted as aforesaid, shall refuse to pay the sum or sums, so forfeited and adjudged, he, she or they shall be immediately committed to the common gaol, not exceeding ten days, nor less than three, for said forfeiture, and until he pay all just costs.

"3d. Whereas, it is highly necessary that every person, of able body, should betake himself to some honest calling, and not misspend their time in loitering and tippling, in licensed houses, or elsewhere, in this town; to prevent which,

"Be it Resolved, that if any person or persons, fit and able to work, shall refuse so to do, but loiter and misspend his or their time, wander from place to place, or otherwise misorder themselves, by drinking or tippling in any of the licensed houses, or elsewhere, in this town, after nine o'clock at night, or continue in any of the aforesaid houses above the space of one hour, unless on necessary business, all such persons, being convicted of any of the aforesaid articles, before said committee, by sufficient witnesses, shall, for every such offense, forfeit and pay to the said committee, for the use of the poor of said town, the sum of two shillings, and all just costs of trial, which shall be adjudged by said committee, and in case any person, convicted as aforesaid, shall refuse to pay the sum or sums, so forfeited and adjudged, he or they, shall be committed to the common gaol, there to remain not exceeding ten days, nor less than three days, for said forfeiture, and until he pay all just costs.

"4th. Whereas, personal abuse tends to promote ill blood and discord among society, to prevent which, be it Resolved, that if any person or persons shall smite, or strike, or threaten to abuse, or destroy, the person or property of another, he or they, so offending, shall, for the

first offense, pay to the said committee, for the use of the poor of said town, the sum of five shillings, and costs of prosecution, and double that sum for the second offense; and for the third, or any after offense, shall be imprisoned, or publicly whipt, according to the judgment of the committee, before whom they are convicted; and in case any person, being convicted as aforesaid, shall refuse to pay the sum or sums, so forfeited and adjudged, he or they shall be committed to the common gaol, there to remain, not exceeding ten days, nor less than four, for said forfeiture, and until he pay all just costs.

"5th. Further, be it Resolved, that if any person, or persons, shall presume to purchase, or bring into this town, any teas, of what sort soever, until the minds of the Congress, respecting that article shall be fully known, shall, forthwith, deliver up such teas to one or more of the committee, to be stored by them and kept for the owner, until the minds of the Congress be known respecting that matter; and in case any person shall refuse to deliver up said teas, the committee have power to imprison him until he does.

"6th. And for the better execution of all and every the foregoing articles, it is Resolved, that all and each of the said committee shall have full power and authority to bring before them any of the inhabitants of this town, or any person residing in said town, that shall offend in any of the foregoing resolves, and upon his or their own views, or other sufficient conviction of any such offense, to impose the fine and penalty for the same, and to commit the offender until it be satisfied.

"7th. It is likewise Resolved, that the officer appointed shall have power and authority to carry any person, that shall be found trespassing in any of the foregoing particulars, before said committee for trial, and if need be, may command aid and assistance in discharging his trust; and any person refusing to give aid or assistance, as aforesaid, he or they shall forfeit the sum of three shillings for every offence, and have their names inserted in the public Gazette, as unfriendly to good order.

"And all masters and heads of families, in this town, are hereby directed to take effectual care that their children, servants, and others under their immediate government, do no trespass, in any of the foregoing particulars.

"Chose Thomas Baker, Eliphalet Briggs, and Dan Guild, as a committee to judge, determine, and act upon said Resolves, and put them in execution, and chose Elijah Blake officer for the purpose mentioned in said Resolves."

(Annals, pages 42-44.)

LUTHER NURSE HOUSE. BUILT 1773.

"The town voted, 37 to 27, to give Mr. John Remele a call to settle as a minister. They offered him £133 6s. 8*d*. as a settlement, and 75 pounds as a salary. His reply was, 'that the town had offered generously enough for his support, but he could not think it his duty to settle in any place, where there was so much opposition.'

"It is well remembered that, in the year of the battle of Bunker Hill, Elisha Briggs projected, and Samuel Bassett and Aaron Willson, by the aid of a bee, excavated, the canal from the pond on West-street to a point on the river about a hundred rods below. The North end of the canal was a few rods North of the road, the pond not then extending as far South as now. By shortening the distance, a sufficient fall was obtained to carry a grist-mill and saw-mill. These mills[1] and the dam were built by Elisha Briggs. The grist mill was placed two or three rods North of the road as it now runs, and nearly North of the present grist-mill; the saw mill was placed where the factory now stands; and the dam where it now is. The mills were sold to Nathan Blake, and were, for some time, known as Blake's Mills. Briggs about this time, projected and surveyed the canal, conducting the waters of White Brook into Ash Swamp Brook."

(Annals, pages 44-45.)

Tradition states, no doubt correctly, that the barn—still standing—on the "Luther Nurse place" on Beech hill, was raised on the day that the battle of Bunker Hill was fought.

In August the provincial congress had recommended to "the Select Men of the several Towns, Parishes and other Places in this Colony, to take an exact Number of the Inhabitants of their respective Districts," in classes, with the number of firearms and pounds of powder on hand, and the number of firearms needed, and that an account of the whole, made under oath, "be returned to the Committee of Safety for this Colony."

A complete return was made and Keene presented the following:

"Province of New Hampshire Keene Oct^{br} 25 1775 in Complyence to a Recommend from the Honorable Provintial Congress of August 25, 1775 We here Transmitt a True account of the Number of Souls, fire arms gun Powder &c in the town of Keen.

[1] A piece of the old water-wheel put in by Elisha Briggs may still be seen at Faulkner & Colony's mills.

Males under 16 years of age.....174
Males from 16 years to 50, not in the army....140
All Males above 50 years of age.....24
Persons in the army.....31
All females.....387

756[1]

fire arms.....72
Gun Powder Privit Stock.....22 lb
Guns wanting.....92
Town Stock of Powder.....90 lb
N. B. No Negroes nor Slaves[2] for life

Benja Osgood \ Selectmen
Tho's Baker / of Keene."

[1] Swanzey returned 647; Walpole, 658; Winchester, 723; Westmoreland, 758; Richmond, 860; Chesterfield, 1,059; Concord, 1,052; Exeter, 1,741; Portsmouth, 4,590; and the colony of New Hampshire, 82,200.

[2] Portsmouth returned 140 slaves, Exeter 38, Somersworth 30, Londonderry 29, Dover 26, Greenland 21, Concord 14, Hanover 10, Peterboro 8, Walpole and Winchester 2 each, Dublin 1. In the colony there were upwards of 600, and in New England, 16,000.

CHAPTER VIII.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR—CONTINUED.

1776-1777.

On the 5th of January, 1776, the Provincial congress took up the matter of establishing a temporary civil government for the colony, and "Resolved That this Congress Assume the Name, Power & Authority of a house of Representatives or Assembly for the Colony of New Hampshire." A council of twelve members was provided for, to be elected in the first instance by that house, afterwards by the people. Samuel Ashley of Winchester and Benjamin Giles of Newport were chosen for Cheshire county. In default of a governor, the two houses assumed the executive duties during the session, and invested the committee of safety with that power during the recess. Precepts for elections were to be issued in the name of the council and assembly, signed by the president of the council and the speaker of the house. Mesech Weare was chosen president of the council and chairman of the committee of safety, and thus became acting governor. He was also appointed chief justice of the superior court of judicature.

On the 12th of April that committee of safety sent to the selectmen of each town the "ASSOCIATION TEST," which is given in the Annals of Keene as follows:

To the Selectmen of Keene.

COLONY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

IN COMMITTEE OF SAFETY,

April 12th, 1776.

In order to carry the underwritten RESOLVE of the Hon'ble Congress into Execution, You are requested to desire all Males above Twenty-One Years of Age, (Lunaticks, Idiots, and Negroes excepted,) to sign to the DECLARATION on this paper; and when so done to make return hereof, together with the Name or Names of all who shall refuse to sign the same, to the GENERAL ASSEMBLY, or Committee of Safety of this Colony.

M. WEARE, *Chairman.*

IN CONGRESS, MARCH 14th, 1776.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several Assemblies, Conventions and Councils, or Committees of Safety of the United Colonies, *immediately* to cause all persons to be *disarmed*, within their respective Colonies, who are *notoriously* disaffected to the cause of AMERICA, Or who have not associated, and refuse to associate, to defend by ARMS the United Colonies, against the Hostile Attempts of the British Fleets and Armies.

Extract from the Minutes,

(COPY.) CHARLES THOMPSON, *Sec'y*.

In consequence of the above Resolution, of the Hon. Continental CONGRESS, and to show our Determination in joining our American Brethren, in defending the Lives, Liberties and Properties of the Inhabitants of the UNITED COLONIES:

We the *Subscribers*, do hereby solemnly engage, and promise, that we will, to the utmost of our Power, at the Risque of our Lives and Fortunes, with ARMS oppose the Hostile Proceedings of the British Fleets and Armies against the United American COLONIES.

Thomas Frink,
Nathan Blake,
Eliphalet Briggs, Jr.,
Josiah Richardson,
Joseph Blake,
Daniel Kingsbury,
Dan Guild,
Eli Metcalf,
Ichabod Fisher,
Thomas Wilder,
Timothy Ellis,
Gideon Tiffany,
Jesse Hall,
Michael Metcalf,
Jesse Clark,
Gideon Ellis, Jr.,
David Nims, Jr.,
Abraham Wheeler,
William Ellis,
Joshua Osgood,
Nathaniel Kingsbury,
Reuben Daniels,
Reuben Partridge,
Cephas Clark,
Ebenezer Carpenter,
Timothy Ellis, Jr.,
Eliakim Nims,
Caleb Ellis,
Joseph Willson,
Davis Howlett,
Timothy Ellis, ye 3d,
Benjamin Willis,
Isaac Wyman,
David Foster,
Ephraim Dorman,
Seth Heaton,
Andrew Balch,
Gideon Ellis,
Thomas Baker,
Benjamin Archer,
Joseph Ellis,
Simeon Washburn,
Zadoc Nims,
Isaac Clark,
Bartholomew Grimes,
David Willson,
Benjamin Balch,
Ebenezer Day,
John Dickson,
Naboth Bettison,
Abraham Wheeler, Jr.,
James Wright,
John Houghton,
Silas Cook,
Nathan Blake, Jr.,
Nathan Rugg,
Stephen Larrabee,
Robert Spencer,
Ebenezer Cook,
Joshua Ellis,
Jotham Metcalf,
Moses Marsh,
Simeon Clark, Jr.,
Benjamin Ellis,
David Nims,
Elisha Briggs,
Benjamin Archer, Jr.,
Samuel Wood,
Eliphalet Briggs,
Nathaniel Briggs,
Elijah Blake,
Uriah Willson,
John Le Bourveau,
David Foster, Jr.,
Aaron Gray, Jr.,
John Daniels,
Samuel Daniels,
Jedediah Carpenter,
William Goodenough,
Adin Holbrook,
Hezekiah Man,
Jeremiah Stiles,
Samuel Hall,
Jonathan Archer,
Abraham Pond,
Silas French,
Eliphalet Carpenter,
Benjamin Willard,
Jacob Town,
John Day,
Peter Rice,
Isaac Esty,
Jonathan Dwinell,
Thomas Dwinell,
John Connolly,
Abijah Wilder,

Samuel Chapman,
John Balch,
Abijah Metcalf,
Henry Ellis,
Luther Bragg,
Seth Heaton, Jr.,
Josiah Ellis,
Benjamin Osgood,
Ebenezer Newton,
Daniel Willson,
Ezra Harvey,
David Harris,
Obadiah Blake, Jr.,
Asahel Blake,
Samuel Bassett,
Jedediah Wellman,
Jonathan Heaton,
Simeon Ellis,
Benjamin Ellis,
James Crossfield,
Joseph Ellis, Jr.,
Thomas Baker, Jr.,
Thomas Wells,
Achilles Mansfield,
Royal Blake,
William Gray,
Zadoc Wheeler,
Daniel Snow,
William Nelson,
Israel Houghton,
William Woods,
Asaph Nichols,
Elisha Ellis,
Thomas Fields,
Michael Sprought,
Benjamin Tiffany,
James Eddy.

Agreeably to the within direction, we have requested all in this Town to sign, as herein set forth; and hereto annexed the names of all those who Refuse to sign the within Declaration, viz:

Maj. Josiah Willard,
Lt. Benjamin Hall,
Dr. Josiah Pomeroy,
Samuel Wadsworth,
Robert Gilman,
John White,
Eleazer Sanger,
Abner Sanger,
Thomas Cutter,
James Perkins,
Benjamin Osgood, Jr.'
John Swan,
James Hunt.

ELIPHALET BRIGGS, JR.,
JOSIAH RICHARDSON,
JOSEPH BLAKE,
DANIEL KINGSBURY,
} *Selectmen of the Town of Keene.*

Only 773 persons in the colony, then numbering 80,000 inhabitants, refused to sign; but in most cases those were the wealthy and influential men.

The legislature called upon the towns for recommendations of persons for justices of the peace. On the 23d of April, Keene voted unanimously to recommend Col. Isaac Wyman, and he was appointed on the 11th of June.

In the spring and summer of 1775, the Indians had threatened the Connecticut valley, and Capt. Timothy Bedel of Bath had been authorized to raise a company of rangers for its protection. The company was afterwards increased to a battalion and later to a regiment. Bedel was appointed colonel, with orders to join the northern army. In February, John Griggs, as second lieutenant, and Elisha Willis, Benjamin Hall and Joseph Gray as privates, all from Stiles' disbanded company, and William Hardwick, also of Keene, enlisted in the company of Capt. Jason Wait of Alstead, in Bedel's regiment.

Early in March, Washington seized Dorchester Heights

and compelled the British to evacuate Boston. They left the city on the 17th, and on the 18th, Washington "started five of his best regiments," of which Stark's was one, on their march to New York. On the 27th, Sullivan followed with the remainder of his brigade; and soon after his arrival was sent, with all his New Hampshire regiments and some others, to reinforce the army of the North, which was slowly retreating from Quebec. Small pox had broken out in that army and it was suffering terribly from that disease. A part of Bedel's regiment was captured at a place called "The Cedars." Upon the death of Gen. Thomas, from small pox, the command of that army devolved upon Gen. Sullivan. He continued to retire slowly upon Crown Point and Ticonderoga. The British army that opposed him was increased, and the approach of so large a force caused great alarm throughout New England, particularly as bands of Indians now hovered on our frontiers and threatened to renew their barbarous atrocities.

Warnings and appeals for protection poured in upon the legislature. Upon a requisition of the Continental congress the New Hampshire legislature, on the 14th of June, resolved: "That there be forthwith raised and equipped in this Colony a Regiment of seven hundred and fifty men including officers—and that each non-commissioned officer and soldier receive a bounty of Six Pounds" —afterward changed to $20 and one month's advance pay. On the 20th, Col. Isaac Wyman of Keene was appointed to the command of that regiment. It consisted of nine companies, was destined for service in the northern army, and its rendezvous was Haverhill, on the Connecticut river. Joseph Senter of Moultonborough was appointed lieutenant colonel; Stephen Peabody of Amherst, major; Dr. Calvin Frink of Swanzey, son-in-law of Col. Wyman, surgeon; and Isaac Temple of Alstead, adjutant.

Col. Wyman's captains were:

1. William Harper of Brentwood.
2. William Stilson, Hopkinton.
3. James Shepard, Canterbury.
4. John Drew, Barrington.
5. Samuel Wetherbee, Charlestown.
6. Joseph Dearborn, Chester.
7. Joseph Chandler, Epping.
8. Joseph Parker, New Ipswich.
9. William Barron, Merrimack.

John Kilburn, of Gilsum, was first lieutenant and Davis Howlett, of Keene, second lieutenant under Capt. Wetherbee; and sixteen men from Keene enlisted with Lieutenant Howlett in that company, namely, Sergeants Ebenezer Carpenter and Isaac Griswold; Corporal Robert Worsley; and Privates William Stanwood, Aaron Willson, Isaac Clark, John Swan, John (P.) Blake, Thomas Wilder, James Hall, Jesse Wheeler, Samuel Osgood, Joshua Ellis, Eliakim Nims, Joseph Thatcher[1] and Jonathan Heaton.[1]

On the 11th of July, the committee of safety sent Col. Wyman his commission and urged him to push forward to Crown Point with as little delay as possible. That Col. Wyman was held in high esteem is evident from the fact that he was the choice of the legislature in preference to several other strong candidates who were urged for the place.

Some of the men were transferred from the service on the New Hampshire coast, in which they had previously enlisted. Capt. Barron moved his company from Merrimack, July 22, to Millikin's tavern in Wilton, where recruits joined him, and the next day they marched to Dublin. On the 25th, they marched through Keene to Walpole, and on the 26th reached No. 4, where they met other companies of the regiment, and other troops from Massachusetts moving to the front. William Hardwick of Keene was a member of Capt. Barron's company.

Col. Wyman collected his regiment at Charlestown and marched thence with his nine companies, on the 1st of August, to join the army at Crown Point, following the road made in the last French and Indian war, and encamping that night at Springfield, Vt. On the 6th they reached Skeensboro (Whitehall), where the regiment was stationed for a time, to avoid the contagion of small pox with which the northern army was still sorely afflicted. Dysentery and "putrid fever" had also broken out among those troops, and "it was computed, that of the (three veteran) New Hampshire regiments, nearly one-third part died this year from sickness." (Belknap's History of New Hampshire,

[1] Heaton is on the roll as from Surry, but he belonged to the militia company here in 1773, and signed the "Association Test" in 1776 as a citizen of Keene. Thatcher appears to have been transferred from Wingate's regiment to Wyman's.

vol. 2, page 410.) Among them was young Joseph Gray of Keene. Thomas Wilder of Wetherbee's company, Wyman's regiment, died of small pox before the recruits left Keene. Col. James Reed suffered so severely from sickness that he became totally blind and was compelled to retire from the service at the close of that year. He was a brave and capable officer and congress promoted him to be brigadier general. Being loath to quit the service he remained with his troops through the summer and autumn, and commanded a brigade for a short time at Ticonderoga.[1] Major Alexander Scammel, promoted to colonel, succeeded to the command of his regiment, with Andrew Colburn, of Marlboro, lieutenant colonel, and Capt. Henry Dearborn promoted to major.

On the 9th of August, Col. Wyman left Skeensboro with his regiment to "Joyn Gen. Reed's Brigade" at Ticonderoga, and was stationed at Fort Independence.

The fear of an Indian raid increased now that our army had withdrawn from Canada, and the people of Keene and all through the Connecticut valley were in a state of alarm lest the frightful scenes of former years should be repeated. Gen. Sullivan, before he was superseded by Gen. Gates, had sent Col. Wait with 200 men to Onion river to protect our frontier; and the legislature authorized the raising of three companies of fifty men each from the western part of the colony for the same purpose.

On the 3d of July the legislature had voted to raise 1,500 men to reinforce the northern army, and apportioned the quotas to be furnished by each militia regiment in the colony, that of Col. Ashley's being 100 men. From those recruits a regiment of eight companies was organized in July and August and sent forward to Ticonderoga, to serve five months. Joshua Wingate of Stratham was appointed colonel, and the rendezvous was at Charlestown. In Capt. Humphrey's company of that regiment were Benjamin Ellis, sergeant, and Naboth Bettison, Daniel Willson, Henry Ellis, Abraham Griffin and Joseph Thatcher, privates, all of Keene. Thatcher appears to have been transferred to Wyman's regiment.

[1] Lieut. Burton's Diary.

On the 4th of July the Declaration of Independence was signed and "Within fourteen days it was published by beat of drums in all the shire towns of New Hampshire." (Belknap's History of New Hampshire, vol. 2, page 405.) It was received by the army, the legislatures and the people with great rejoicing. That declaration brought great encouragement to the patriots, gave them a more definite object for carrying on the war, and united them in a common cause. That object had now come to be the establishment of a nation of their own under democratic rule; the dreaded alternative was the fate of conquered rebels. There could be no more powerful incentive to fight; no sharper spur to endure hardship and privation.

When the news of the signing of the Declaration reached Keene, steps were at once taken to celebrate the occasion; and the following story in connection is told by Col. Rush C. Hawkins of New York in his biographical sketch of Rev. Aaron Hutchinson, a very learned and accomplished divine of that period. Mr. Hutchinson had preached in both Grafton, Mass., and Pomfret, Vt., and while on a journey from the former to the latter place, "when the family arrived at Keene, the citizens of that town had just heard of the signing of the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia and were assembled in an open lot (doubtless on the 'Green') for a celebration of that patriotic event. They had erected a liberty pole for which a flag had been provided, but as they had no halyards there was no way of fastening it to the top of the pole except by climbing, and a Spanish silver piece then in use, of the present value of twenty-five cents, was offered to any one brave enough to undertake the perilous act. Greatly to the surprise of those assembled, a little stripling of a boy, only nine years old, came forward and said he would like to try At first no one was willing to allow such a puny specimen of a child to run the risk he proposed, but upon the assurance of Mr. Hutchinson that his 'little Alec' was a cool-headed boy and could be trusted, he was allowed to make the attempt to carry the flag as near the top as possible. He succeeded in taking it to a point where the pole was so slender that it bent under his weight, but the courage and

coolness of the boy averted a pending danger and crowned his bold effort with success. He descended amid the plaudits of the multitude and received the promised compensation."

A town meeting on the 2d of August chose Capt. Eliphalet Briggs, of the committee of safety of Keene, a delegate to a convention of the committees of safety in the county to be held at Walpole on the 6th, "To Consult and agree upon such Methods as shall then be thought Necessary for the General Good and Our Mutual Defence and Safety."

The legislature had adjourned from the 6th of July to the 4th of September. On the 10th, the Declaration of Independence, which had been received during the recess, was read in the house, and the following resolution was immediately passed:

"Voted and Resolved, That this Colony Assume and take upon themselves the NAME & STILE of NEW HAMPSHIRE, and that all Communications, Writs, Processes & all Law Proceedings which heretofore were made & issued in the Name & Stile of the Province of New Hampshire, or the Name & Stile of the Colony of New Hampshire, shall henceforth be made & issued in the Name & Stile of the STATE of NEW HAMPSHIRE, and not otherwise." And the council concurred.

On the 14th a convention of both houses voted to raise 1,000 men to reinforce the army at New York under Washington, to be divided into two regiments of eight companies each. The colonelcy of one of those regiments was given to Thomas Tash of Durham, that of the other to "Dea." Nahum Baldwin of Amherst. The men were enlisted for three months and were paid a bounty of $20. The two regiments were promptly raised and marched via Hartford, New Haven, and Stamford, Ct. Baldwin's regiment joined the main army and took part in the battle of White Plains, Oct. 28. Capt. John Houghton, of Keene, commanded the 6th company in that regiment, and the enlisted men from Keene were Samuel Bassett, Caleb Ellis, John Lebourveau, Obadiah Blake, Jr., James Eddy, Samuel Hall, John Dickson and Ziba Hall. The regiment was mustered out early in December.

The alarm for the safety of Ticonderoga continued, and

in October, Cols. Ashley and Bellows marched from Cheshire county to reinforce Gen. Gates, each with six companies of his regiment of militia. Col. Chase, of Cornish, also marched with two companies of his regiment, and Col. Enoch Hale of Rindge sent two of his companies, under Lt. Col. Thomas Heald. The men from Keene in that campaign were Stephen Griswold,[1] lieutenant, and Thomas Morse, private, in the company of Capt. Isaac Davis; Michael Metcalf, lieutenant, Timothy Ellis, Jr., sergeant, David Wilson, corporal, and Cephas Clark, John Balch, Jacob Town, Michael Sprout,[2] Aaron Gray, Silas French, Thomas Field, Adin Holbrook, Reuben Partridge, Robert Spencer, Abraham Wheeler, and Jonathan Wheeler, privates in the company of Capt. Joseph Whitcomb of Swanzey; and Ephraim Witherell and Daniel Snow, Jr., in the company of Capt. Joseph Burt; all in Col. Ashley's regiment.

No record of the particular movements of those troops has been found, but at the close of the campaign the following letter of thanks was received from Gen. Gates:

"Ticonderoga Nov. 9th 1776.

"GENTLEMEN—I return you, and the officers & soldiers of the Regiments under your command, my sincere thanks for the Spirit and Expedition both you & they have shewn in marching upon the first alarm, upwards of one hundred & fifty miles, to the support of this important pass, when threatened with an immediate attack from the Enemy's Army. I now dismiss you with the Honour you have so well deserved. I further Certify, that neither you nor any under your command, have received any pay or reward from me for your services upon this occasion; that I leave to be settled by the General Congress with the Convention of your State. With great respect,

"I am, Gentlemen your most obed^{t}

Hum^{bl} Servt
Horatio Gates.

"To Colonel Ashley & Colonel Bellows commanding the Regiments of Militia from the County of Cheshire, in the State of New Hampshire."

In September, congress voted to raise eighty-eight battalions of troops, by enlistments and reënlistments, to serve

[1] Stephen Griswold's name appears on the records for a long term of years as a citizen of Keene—moderator of town meetings, and holding other town offices. He was at one time a selectman of Gilsum.

[2] Michael Sprout belonged in Packersfield, but enlisted from Keene.

through the war. New Hampshire's quota was three battalions. The government offered a bounty of $20 in money and a grant of 100 acres of land to each enlisted man; with an increase in land to officers according to rank, a captain to receive 300 acres, a colonel 500. The three New Hampshire regiments of Stark, Poor and Reed (now Scammel) were reorganized, many of the officers and men reënlisted, and recruiting offices were soon afterward opened to complete their numbers.

The legislature met in November, and voted to raise another reinforcement of 1,000 men for Washington's army, 500 men to be drafted at once from the militia regiments, organized into a regiment of eight companies under Col. David Gilman, of Pembroke, and sent forward immediately. In that legislature, Major Timothy Ellis of Keene served on several important committees, and when he returned home he brought a large sum of money to the recruiting officers in this part of the state. Capt. Francis Towne, of Rindge, with Samuel Wright of Swanzey, first lieutenant, raised a company of Cheshire county men. Zadock Wheeler, of Keene, was a sergeant and Samuel Heaton, of Keene, a corporal in that company. The regiment was mustered Dec. 5, went immediately to the front, was in the battles of Trenton and Princeton and remained in the service beyond its term—with the other New Hampshire regiments, all re-enlisting for six weeks, at the earnest solicitation of Washington—until the 12th of March.

Early in December another alarm spread through New England in consequence of the appearance of the British fleet off the coast, apparently with the intention of landing troops. On the 10th, the legislature "Voted, That Gen. Folsom be and hereby is Directed to order all the militia of this State instantly to prepare themselves with all necessary warlike accoutrements & six days Provisions—as an order for their marching may follow this in Twenty-four hours." But marching orders did not come at that time.

The army at this period was in a deplorable condition, and the outlook of public affairs was so gloomy that congress recommended all the states to appoint a "Day of

RUINS OF DWINNELL'S MILL, WEST KEENE. BUILT IN 1776. LATER KNOWN AS WILLSON'S MILL.

Solemn Fasting and Humiliation." The New Hampshire legislature adopted the recommendation, and on the 13th of December "dissolved," with the invocation, "God save the United States of America."

The three New Hampshire regiments of Stark, Poor and Scammell had left the northern army on the 16th of November, marched down the Hudson river, crossed the country through New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and joined Washington on the 20th of December, in time to take a leading part in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. Though worn with fatigue and almost destitute of clothing in that inclement season, they were counted by Washington among the best troops of his army, and their arrival gave him great satisfaction. At Trenton the main column of attack was commanded by Sullivan, and led by Stark with his New Hampshire men; and, according to Gen. Sullivan's account of the battle, the same New Hampshire regiments, with Gilman's added, saved the day at Princeton. Wingate's regiment left the northern army for home on the 20th of November; and Wyman's on the 22d, via Rutland and Cavendish, and were discharged on the 1st of December.

Early in 1776, Mr. Ebenezer Day, who lived at the north part of the town, died, at the age of 66, and was the first to be buried in the north burying-ground, the land for which had been given by Capt. John Houghton—who lived on the west side of the river—from off his farm, deeded to him by his father, Israel Houghton.

During the year the small pox had prevailed, not only in the army but in many of the towns and settlements. There had been cases of it in this town in the previous year, and private hospitals had been established by some of the resident physicians. Inoculation was just then coming into practice, but the physicians, without experience, were not always successful in its use, and the people were generally opposed to it. This year the disease became epidemic, largely in consequence, as was believed, of the improper management of those hospitals. The same conditions existed in other towns, particularly at Charlestown, the rendezvous of the troops enlisted for the army; and

complaints came from those connected with that service of the inoculations at Keene. A town meeting was held on the 27th of September to consider the subject. Capt. Eliphalet Briggs was chosen moderator, and resolutions were passed and strict regulations adopted for the government of the hospitals in town.

In November, the following petition was sent to the legislature:

"To the Honorable Council and House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire. The petition of us the Subscribers Freeholders of the Town of Keen in the County of Cheshire Humbly Sheweth—

"Whearas Sundry Persons have Set up houses in this Town for the purpose of Inoculating for the Small pox, by which Means the Small pox has been Spread and Still Continues to spread in this and other Towns, to the Great Determent of the publick Good—and a Number of Useful members of Society have lost their Lives thereby and the prosecution of mens Necessary Callings Rendered Dangerous—and the Repeated Endeavour of the Towns to lay Persons Concer'd under proper Restrictions and Regulations—have been inefectual We therefore your Petitioners humbly Pray that you would in Your wisdom So Interpose by Your Authority that a Speedy and an Effectual Stop may be put thereto for the present—as Your Petitioners in Duty Bound Shall Ever pray.

"Keene Novemr 22d 1776.

"Jerh Stiles	Wm Ellis
Isaac Esty	Aaron Gray
Ebenezer Nims	Aaron Gray Junr
Reuben Partridge	Jesse Hall
Gideon Ellis Junr	Ebenezer Newton
Robart Spencer	Abijah Metcalf
Jonathan Pond	Ryal Blake
Ebenezer Day	Henry Elles
John Day	Josiah Ellis
Jedediah Wellman	Timothy Ellis Junr
Stephen Larrabe	Elisha Briggs
Nathaniel Kingsbury	Nathaniel Briggs
Benj Archer Jun.	Benja Balch
Jesse Clark	Cephas Clark
Thomas Field	John Balch
William Goodenow	Jonathan Archer
Joseph Blake	Abner Ralston."

Before the close of the year several citizens died of that disease, among them Capt. Eliphalet Briggs, who had

presided at the September meeting. He "was buried at the foot of the hill, on the road leading to Roxbury." Thomas Frink, Josiah Pomeroy, Gideon Tiffany and Obadiah Blake were the physicians in town at that time. Dr. Pomeroy had one of the hospitals complained of, and Dr. Tiffany another, on the east side of the town. The following spring, a pest house was built "at a secluded spot near the South end of Beech Hill, since known as pock pasture, for the inoculation of the small pox. A Doctor Pomeroy was the attending physician. He lived in the house afterwards occupied by General Reed, of revolutionary memory, which stood on the West side of Main street, nearly opposite but below the site of the fort. A large number were inoculated, of whom six died." (Annals, page 51.)

The residence of Dr. Pomeroy, the tory, afterwards confiscated by the state and leased to Gen. Reed, was on lots Nos. 44 and 45, next north of Col. Wyman's tavern, bought of Rev. Clement Sumner in 1773. Later the place came into possession of Daniel Newcomb, administrator of the estate of Dr. Pomeroy, appointed by the judge of probate, same as in case of decease.

The September meeting elected Major Timothy Ellis representative to the legislature for one year, and chose Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, Silas Cooke, Thomas Baker, Capt. John Houghton and Daniel Kingsbury a "committee to prepare Instructions in Behalf of the Town to give the Representative."

In December, Capt. Jeremiah Stiles was chosen a member of the committee of safety of the town, in place of Capt. Eliphalet Briggs, deceased.

Very little had been accomplished in the town during the year, for public affairs and the carrying on of the war had absorbed the attention of everybody, and all efforts had been turned in that direction. The baneful effects of the war on the prosperity of the people were now seriously felt. The attempt to relieve the situation by issuing paper money—made by both the Continental congress and the state legislature—was a lamentable failure. Lack of faith in its stability caused continual depreciation of its value;

or, in other words, the prices of commodities in that paper money increased enormously The legislature attempted to control the laws of trade by fixing the prices of commodities, but the result was simply another illustration of the futility of all such legislation. Scarcely any goods were imported, and few were manufactured, except such as could be made by the people themselves in their log cabins from the products of their farms. The scarcity of firearms induced the people of Cheshire county to make a strong effort and to choose a committee to "Set up and Carry on the Manufactory of Fire Arms" within the county; but the scarcity of money prevented the success of the undertaking. Capt. Ephraim Dorman, Thomas Wells, Elijah Blake, Benjamin Archer, Eliphalet Briggs, Capt. Josiah Richardson, Capt. John Houghton, Thomas Baker, Lieut. Benjamin Hall, Israel Houghton, Daniel Kingsbury, and several other citizens of Keene, signed the petition of Joel Kilburn of Gilsum to the legislature for aid and encouragement in establishing the manufacture of wire, of which there was scarcely any to be had. There were few mechanics, and it was almost impossible to procure suitable tools and implements, or to have existing ones repaired; and the work of the farm and the family had to be done with the rudest utensils and contrivances. So many of the men were in the army that it was with extreme difficulty that crops could be raised and gathered. Those were indeed "hard times."

On the 14th of January, 1777, the town voted twenty pounds for the support of preaching and sixteen pounds for ammunition. The number of the committee of safety was increased to seven and Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, Jesse Clark, Ebenezer Cook, Capt. John Houghton, Reuben Partridge, Simeon Clark and Peter Hobart were chosen for that committee. Capt. Stiles was nominated by vote of the town for justice of the peace. His appointment was delayed, but was finally made upon a petition of several citizens of the town.

Most of the troops having been withdrawn from Ticonderoga, and Lake Champlain being frozen over, there was great alarm lest the British, who lay at St. Johns,

should advance on the ice and capture that fortress; and troops were hastened forward for its protection. In February, Col. Pierce Lang's regiment marched from Newcastle through Keene and Charlestown towards that destination. More soldiers were needed, particularly for the Continental service, but the hardships and privations of the people were intensified in the case of the soldiers in the field, and it was hard to induce men to enlist for the long term of three years or the war, as required in the Continental service. The legislature offered a bounty of twenty pounds to each man who would enlist in that service, in addition to the large bounties in land and money offered by congress—to be paid four years after enlistment, with interest. The militia laws were made more effective for raising troops, provision was made for drafting in case volunteering failed, and heavy penalties were laid on those who refused or neglected to serve after enrollment. The colonels of the New Hampshire regiments were at home that winter recruiting and forwarding the men to the rendezvous at Charlestown.

In January, Lieut. John Gregg (or Griggs), of Keene, was appointed captain of the Third company of Scammel's regiment, with Ebenezer Fletcher of Chesterfield—soon succeeded by William Ellis of Keene—first lieutenant, and Benjamin Ellis, of Keene, second lieutenant. Capt. Gregg had 300 pounds, sterling money, sent him by the state committee of safety for recruiting purposes, and he opened an office here and proceeded to raise a company. On the 2d of May, however, he resigned on account of sickness, and William Ellis was promoted to captain, with Benjamin Ellis first lieutenant. While waiting for the acceptance of his resignation Capt. Gregg sent out the following advertisement:

"Deserted from Capt John Griggs Company in Cor^{l} Scammills Rig^{t} Epraim Hall 24 years of age Six feet high Dark hair Blew Eyes Light Colered Cloths formerly belonged to Lyn: Whosoever will take up S^{d} Deserter and Return him to his Company at Keen or N° 4: in the State of New Hampshire shall have a harnsom Reward and all Nesesary Charges Paid by me

Keene May ye 5th 1777." John Griggs Capt

He also advertised for one Nathan Gale, "21 yers of age 6 feet Hi Well Set Dark hair."

Col. Scammel himself came to Keene in May to superintend the recruiting, as will be seen by the following extract from a letter to the committee of safety:

"Keen, May 9th 1777.

"GENTLEMEN—The backwardness of the men to engage in this Quarter & the fewness of men in Capt. Ellis's Company render it necessary that a full complement of Officers should be immediately employ'd in filling it. Many of the towns in the vicinity of this place have rais'd but very few men, * * * *

"As many of my Officers are not commissioned should esteem it a particular favor to have them forwarded to Ticonderoga as soon as conveniency permit. * * * *

"I am, with the greatest respect, yr Honors most obedt & very humble Servt.

Alexr Scammell."

The Keene men who enlisted in Capt. Ellis's company were Naboth Bettison, James Eddy, Daniel Snow, Jr., John Balch, Jr., Ziba Hall, Benjamin Thatcher, William Farley,[1] Nathaniel Briggs, Timothy Crossfield, and John Daniels.[2] All enlisted for three years except Daniels, who joined for eight months. Ezra Turner of Keene enlisted in Capt. Hutchin's company, Cilley's regiment, and Reuben Colster of Keene, in the company of Capt. Elijah Clayes of Fitzwilliam, in Col. Nathan Hale's regiment.

The annual town meeting this year chose Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, Capt. John Houghton, Simeon Clark, Jesse Clark and Ebenezer Cooke committee of safety. Ten pounds were voted for preaching and a Mr. Mansfield and a Mr. Samuel Whitman preached as candidates. The article in relation to granting money for schools was dismissed. The town having been called upon for its quota of men for the Continental army, to serve three years or during the war, on the 31st of March, it voted a bounty of thirty pounds to each man provided "a Sufficient Number would Turn out, but as not any offered the meeting was dismissed." In June following, however, the same bounty was offered, in addition to that voted by the state, and a committee was

[1] Farley belonged in Packersfield, but enlisted as from Keene.

[2] Daniels is on the roll as from Chesterfield, but was a citizen of Keene, a member of the company here in 1773, and signed the Association Test in 1776.

appointed to adjust the time and pay of those who had previously enlisted.

Pressing appeals continued to come from Gen. Schuyler, Gen. Wayne and others to hasten forward troops to save Ticonderoga. On the 3d of May, the state committee of safety sent orders to each of the three colonels of militia in Cheshire county, "to raise as many of your Militia as possible and march them to Ticonderoga." Col. Ashley marched from Keene on the 7th, from Westmoreland on the 8th, with 109 men; Col. Bellows marched on the same day with 112; Col. Chase of Cornish with 159; and Capt. Brown with fifty-four men from Col. Enoch Hale's regiment. Timothy Ellis of Keene was major of Ashley's regiment and marched with the troops. Capt. Davis Howlett of Keene commanded the first company, of fifty men, with Elisha Mack of Gilsum, lieutenant, and the enlisted men from Keene in that company were Jotham Metcalf, sergeant; David Willson and Obadiah Blake, corporals; and Benjamin Archer, Samuel Bassett, Simeon Clark, Jesse Dassance, Ebenezer Day, Simeon Ellis, David Foster, Silas French and Tilly Howe, privates. Ephraim Witherell was in the company of Capt. Waitstill Scott in the same regiment. The regiment marched to Ticonderoga, but the alarm had subsided and it returned, and the men were discharged, June 17th to the 24th.

Gen. Burgoyne now commanded the British army of the north, 10,000 strong—7,000 of them "choice troops sent from England, with the finest train of brass artillery (42 pieces), that had ever been seen in America"[1]—besides thousands of Indians employed as allies "to use as instruments of terror."[1] Exaggerated reports of the strength of his army and the rapidity of his advance reached the states and caused great alarm throughout New England, for it was feared that these eastern states were to be invaded by an irresistible force of regular troops and savages.

Again the militia was ordered to the front, and turned out in larger numbers than before. Col. Ashley marched on the 29th of June, with about 400 men, taking Lt. Col. Joseph Hammond, of Swanzey, with him, and leaving Major

[1] Bancroft's History of the United States, vol. 5, pages 579 and 587.

Ellis in command of the regiment at home. Dr. Thomas Frink of Keene went as regimental surgeon, and was allowed two horses to carry his baggage and medicines. Capt. Davis Howlett, with Daniel Kingsbury as his second lieutenant, raised another company of eighty men. The enlisted men from Keene were Asahel Blake and Dan Guild, sergeants, Timothy Ellis, Jr., corporal, and Nathan Blake, Robert Spencer, Jonathan Heaton, Tilly Howe, Benjamin Nurse, Aaron Wilson, Samuel Osgood, Royal Blake,[1] Jesse Hall, Ebenezer Carpenter, Joseph Thatcher, Zadock Nims, Abraham Wheeler, Jonathan Wheeler, Ebenezer Newton, Benjamin Balch, Aaron Gray, Thomas Dwinnell, Joseph Blake, Samuel Woods, Gideon Ellis, John Daniels, Nathaniel Kingsbury, John Day, Reuben Partridge, William Woods, Isaac Griswold, John Le Bourveau, John Balch, Benjamin Archer, and Israel Houghton, privates; and in the company of Capt. Elisha Mack, of Gilsum, were Charles Rice, Thomas Morse and Joseph Ellis; and Ephraim Witherell was in that of Capt. John Cole, of Westmoreland.

The Keene company marched a part of the distance, was met by an express with the information that the alarm was false and started to return, but was overtaken by a second courier ordering the troops forward in all haste. They marched as far as Otter creek, where they met a part of the army in retreat—Ticonderoga having been abandoned—and returned home. Other companies had similar experiences. Burgoyne was steadily advancing, and during those last days of June and first of July, battalions, companies and squads of troops were marching and countermarching to and from the front in all parts of the state. But the military road opened by Lt. Col. John Hawks and Col. John Goffe from Merrimack, N. H., through Peterboro, Keene and Charlestown to Crown Point, made this route through Keene the main line of the movements.

Two companies from Amherst and Wilton, under Major

[1] He was usually called Rial, and is on the roll as Ariel Blake. Royal Blake was in the service and was one of those whose pay was equalized by the town in 1788; but "Ariel" is the only form in which his name appears on the Revolutionary rolls.

Abiel Abbott, passed through Keene and marched as far as No. 4, when they were ordered home. At Dublin, they were overtaken by an express and ordered to march "with all speed for Ticonderoga." This time they marched as far as Otter creek, where they heard of the evacuation and returned home. This made four times that those companies passed and repassed through Keene. A battalion of several companies and parts of companies under Lt. Col. Heald of New Ipswich, and companies and detachments from Hollis, Peterboro, Merrimack, Dunstable, Hudson, Derry, Bedford, Litchfield, Nottingham, Marlboro, Stoddard, and other towns, passed through Keene in a similar way at different times, marching both ways, at all hours of the day and night. One was a company of sixty-four men from Fitzwilliam and adjoining towns, under Capt. John Mellen. A company of forty-eight men from New Ipswich, under Capt. Josiah Brown, had horses enough to "ride and tie," and thus hastened their march. For weeks at this time, "Keene Street," as it was called then and for more than half a century afterwards, resounded with the continual tramp of marching patriots and the rub-dub-dub of the recruiting officer's drum.

The three New Hampshire regiments of Continental troops—Cilley's, Hale's and Scammel's—in Gen. Poor's brigade, had again joined the northern army. They had been armed with the French "fusil," the best musket then in use. But Gen. St. Clair abandoned his stores and the fortresses at the head of Lake Champlain, and retreated to Fort Edward, by the way of Hubbardston, Castleton and Rutland. At Hubbardston, disaster befell the New Hampshire troops by being overtaken by the energetic Gen. Frazer. They lost heavily in killed, wounded and prisoners; and among those captured was Col. Nathan Hale of Rindge. Lt. Col. George Reid,[1] of Londonderry, of Cilley's regiment, was transferred and given the command of Hale's regiment. Our northern army was in a deplorable condition; many of the soldiers left without permission, and when the volunteers for the support of that army met the straggling

[1] A daughter of Lieutenant Colonel, afterwards Colonel, and General Reid of the militia, became the wife of one governor of New Hampshire and the mother of another—Samuel Dinsmoor, senior, and Samuel Dinsmoor, junior, of Keene.

and demoralized troops, they turned back disappointed and disheartened, and some of them disbanded and returned singly to their homes. The imminent danger of invasion by the British and Indians caused increased alarm throughout this part of the country. Parties of New York tories and bands of Indians were already overrunning the New Hampshire Grants (Vermont), west of the mountains, outraging the inhabitants, destroying their property and driving off their cattle and horses, and many of the settlers abandoned their farms and fled.

In the midst of all this excitement, another source of anxiety to the people of this vicinity was disclosed in the increased activity, more or less hidden, of the tories in this and other towns. The following record appears in the State Papers, but is not found in the court records of this county:

"Return of the names of the Persons found guilty of missdemenors against the States by a Special Session held at Keen June 1777 as p^{r} minutes on file with the sum fin^{d} & order thereon

Col. Josiah Willard	20^{s}	John Gould	40^{s}
Maj^{r} Josiah Willard	30^{s}	Alexander Rolstone	40^{s}
Eleazur Pomeroy	20^{s}	Paul Richardson	40^{s}
Eben^{r} Harvey	40^{s}	Nathan Rugg	40^{s}
Rev. Micah Lawrence	20^{s}	Revd Clement Sumner	40^{s}
Benj Melvin	40^{s}	Capt Henry Coffin	20^{s}
Benj. Melvin Jr.	40^{s}	Saml King	40^{s}
Nathan Willard	10^{s}	John White	40^{s}
Joseph Collins	20^{s}	Simon Willard	10^{s}
Sam'l Wadsworth	40^{s}		

Total £29—10—0."

"Ordered that the several Persons fin^{d} for Misdemeno, Recognize in the sum of £500 as Principal with Two Surties to be of a Peacable Behavior towards the State & to be confin^{d} within certain Limits untill this Court or Sum other Authority shall Discharge them therefrom—

"order^{d} that Capt Benj^{a} Flood Receive £12 out of the fine money to Billit his guard with he to acct therefor—

"order^{d} that the Remainder of the fines be Reposited in the hands of Nathl S. Prentice Esq. to wait the County Sessions order thereon

"a Coppy from the minutes on file

Nathl S. Prentice Clerk of s^{d} Sessions."

At a special session of the court held at Keene, on the 3d

day of June the following persons, who had previously been indicted, were tried: Elijah King of Charlestown; Elijah Willard, Prentice Willard and Capt. Samuel Smith of Winchester; Simon Baxter of Alstead; Abner Sanger of Keene; and Josiah Butler. King and Prentice Willard were put under bonds of 500 pounds each for their good behavior; and Smith, Sanger, Baxter and Elijah Willard were locked up in jail at Charlestown.

On the 17th, the legislature, upon the report of a committee previously appointed to investigate a complaint against Breed Batchelder of Packersfield, and Robert Gilmore of Keene, "Voted that the said Batchelder and Gilmore be committed to close Prison in some Gaol in this state;" and they were arrested and locked up in the jail here. Other tories in the county were arrested from time to time, and tried before Justice Wyman and others. Some gave bonds, and some were imprisoned, though most of them were allowed freedom within certain limits. The property of the more obnoxious ones was afterwards confiscated for the benefit of the state. "Mrs. Sturtevant, who is the widow of Cornelius Sturtevant, Jr., the printer, was born in 1770, and is now living with mental faculties bright and vigorous, well remembers that, in early girlhood, when going to school from West-street to the schoolhouse just South of the old Ralston house, she passed the old jail, standing near where the Emerald House now stands. It was made of hewn logs, with a small hole for a window She and her companions often stopped to hear a Mr. Baxter, who was confined there, sing the 'Vicar of Bray.' This Baxter was a tory, lived in Surry or Alstead, and was probably then confined for toryism. Tradition speaks of him as wealthy for the time, bold, reckless, fond of enjoyment, and of defying public opinion. He doubtless sang the 'Vicar of Bray' to reproach and provoke the rebels outside for having deserted their King and sworn allegiance to the new government. He emigrated to Nova Scotia." (Annals, page 50.)

Yet, notwithstanding the alarming outlook and all their discouragements, the people as a whole were resolute and determined. They were also gladdened and

encouraged by good news from the patriot army in New Jersey, where Washington, in the single month of June, had gained advantages over Howe and Cornwallis, and driven them out of that state. There was great rejoicing throughout the country.

But urgent appeals from the patriots of the "Grants" came to New Hampshire for assistance, and those appeals were sustained by reports of the insolence of the British invaders and the barbarities of their Indian allies. The commanding officers at various points sent expresses along the routes as far as No. 4 and Keene, and even beyond, to rally and bring forward the stragglers and reinforcements, directing them to march to Bennington, and thence to join the main army.

The legislature had finished its spring session and adjourned on the 28th of June. A summons from the committee of safety brought the members together again on the 17th of July, for a special session of three days. On the second day the two houses met in convention to discuss the situation—Mesech Weare, chairman of the committee of safety, in the chair. The state was destitute of money and the people had already done all that seemed possible for them to do in the matter of furnishing troops. But Burgoyne must be stopped or his army would overrun their own territory, and their own homes and property would be sacrificed.

The main question was that of raising the means to pay and equip the soldiers. When the gloom of the situation was portrayed, Col. John Langdon, speaker of the house, rose and made one of the most telling speeches of the Revolution.

He said: "Gentlemen, I have three thousand dollars in hard money, thirty hogsheads of Tobago rum, worth as much, I can pledge my plate for as much more; these are at the service of the state. With this money we can raise and provision troops; our friend, John Stark, will lead them. If we check Burgoyne the state can repay me, and if we do not, the money will be of no use to me." The offer was accepted with enthusiasm. The convention rose and the two houses went to their work.

Stark was called from his farm on the Merrimac—whither he had retired because he felt insulted by congress in the appointment of brigadiers—was made a brigadier general, and given command of all the militia on the west side of the state, with orders to take one-fourth of all his troops, with a few from Whipple's brigade on the east side of the state, make his rendezvous at Charlestown and march at once into the Grants. Four companies of rangers were also raised and placed under his command. The militia officers were ordered to take away their arms from all who scrupled or refused to assist in the defence of the country; and a day of "General Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer" was appointed, which "was observed with great solemnity" on the 7th of August.

Stark's commission was from the state and was wholly independent of every other authority. On July 28, 1777, he was at Charlestown. There was no need of a "draft." Plenty of volunteers joined him promptly, for they were alarmed at the danger and they had unbounded confidence in him as a commander. As they arrived he sent them forward by companies and detachments, to report to Col. Seth Warner at Manchester, twenty miles north of Bennington.[1] At Charlestown, he found but few supplies, a part of the powder being worthless; a few pieces of small cannon there and at Walpole, but without carriages and no workmen to mount them; a small quantity of sugar; "Very little Rum;" a few hundred pounds of lead but "only one pair of bullet moulds in town;" all of which delayed his movements; yet when 500 volunteers had reached him, on the 4th of August, he went forward, encamped on the night of the 6th at what is now Peru, Vt., and reached Manchester on the 7th. There he met Gen. Lincoln of the Continental army, who ordered him forward with his troops to join the main army on the Hudson,

[1] "The legislature adjourned on Saturday. All that night and the next day, a horseman was riding from Exeter to Concord. Sunday afternoon he dismounted at the church door, and walked up the aisle. The minister stopped and said: 'Captain Hutchins, are you the bearer of a message?' 'Yes, Burgoyne is on his march to Albany. Stark will command the New Hampshire men, and if we all turn out, we can cut him off.' 'My hearers,' said the Rev. Timothy Walker, 'You who are ready to go, better leave at once.' All the men left the house. But Phineas Virgin had no shoes. 'You shall have a pair,' said Samuel Thompson, the shoemaker, 'before tomorrow morning.' Next day those shoes were marching."—President Bartlett's address at Bennington, August 16, 1877.

and to report to Gen. Poor as his brigade commander. Stark refused to obey his order or report to Gen. Poor or any other officer who had been his junior in the army. At the same time he wrote Gen. Schuyler, commander of the northern army, that he was willing to unite in any measure that would promote the public good. Lincoln reported him, and congress passed a vote of reprimand, but subsequent events sustained him.

The important depot of supplies at Bennington was threatened by the enemy. On the 8th, Stark made that point the rendezvous for his troops, and soon afterwards went there himself, taking Col. Warner with him, but leaving his battalion of "Green Mountain Boys" at Manchester for protection on that side. Reinforcements continued to join him, chiefly from Charlestown, a few via Brattleboro. Three of the nine colonels in Stark's brigade of militia joined him, with regiments made up of volunteers from all the regiments and from Whipple's brigade—Nichols of Amherst, Stickney of Concord, and Hobart (or Hubbard) of Plymouth. Col. Ashley, of Winchester, had just returned with his regiment from his march towards Ticonderoga, and his whole force not being called for, he volunteered as aid on Gen. Stark's staff and served with him through the campaign. Col. Nichols had ten companies, four of them from Cheshire county, with Wm. Gregg of Londonderry, lieutenant colonel; and Timothy Ellis, major, and Ebenezer Cook, sergeant major, both of Keene.

Capt. Elisha Mack, of Gilsum, commanded one of the companies, with Josiah Richardson, of Keene, lieutenant. The enlisted men from Keene in that company were Adin Holbrook and Tilly Howe, sergeants; Robert Worsley, corporal; and Cephas Clark, Joshua Durant, Samuel Hall, Ezra Metcalf, Jonathan Wheeler, Daniel Willson, David Willson, Jonathan Dwinnell, Michael Metcalf, Jr., William Woods, David Harris and Zadoc Wheeler, privates. This company marched from Keene on the 22d of July, and was in the battle of Bennington, where Nichols' regiment took a prominent part in the fight. In the same regiment were a company from Chesterfield under Capt. Kimball Carlton,

of sixty-one men; one from Swanzey, under Capt. Samuel Wright, of sixty men; one from Rindge, under Capt. Salmon Stone, of seventy-four men, many of whom were from Marlboro, Dublin and Packersfield; and one from New Ipswich, under Capt. Stephen Parker,[1] of seventy men. The aggregate number of the regiment was about 600. Walpole and Charlestown also sent companies in Col. Hobart's regiment. While at Charlestown, Gen. Stark had appointed Rev. Augustine Hibbard, of Claremont, who had preached for a short time in Keene, chaplain of his brigade, by an order dated Aug. 3, 1777

Burgoyne had detached Col. Baum with about 700 veterans, two pieces of artillery, a few Canadians and 150 Indians for a raid through the New Hampshire Grants, and to destroy the depot of supplies at Bennington. His orders were to collect cattle and horses, mount his dragoons, destroy such stores as he could not bring off, cross the mountains to Rockingham and return to Albany—where Burgoyne expected to be—by the way of Brattleboro. Baum was also joined by several hundred tories under Col. Skeene, of Skeensboro. On the 13th, his advance reached Cambridge, twelve miles northwest of Bennington. A woman on horseback—all the men were in the army on one side or the other—brought the news to Stark that there were 200 Indians at Cambridge. Stark had about 1,400 men. He immediately sent Lt. Col. Gregg, of Nichols' regiment, forward to hold the enemy in check. A few hours later, another woman came from the same place to say that 1,500 Hessians and tories had reached that town. Early the next morning, Stark marched with his whole brigade to support Gregg, whom he met four miles out, retreating before a superior force. Discovering Stark's column, the enemy halted and formed on a commanding ridge. Stark deployed his column and tried to induce Baum to attack him; but Baum was cautious, and intrenched. Leaving a line of skirmishers, Stark fell back about a mile, and his men lay on their arms that night. Friday, the 15th, it rained all day and both parties lay in position;

[1] Capt. Parker was father of Elijah Parker, Esq., a prominent citizen of Keene in the early part of the 19th century, lawyer, town clerk, and town agent.

but Stark sent out detachments on both flanks of the enemy to harass them and magnify his own numbers. The Indians reported that the woods were full of Yankees and many of them deserted.

The next morning a few more troops joined Stark, and he now had about 1,600 men.[1] He sent Col. Nichols with 300 men around the enemy's left, and Col. Hendricks with 300 around their right, to unite and attack their rear; and Cols. Hobart and Stickney were to attack their right flank. Taking command of the main body in front of the intrenched position, when all was ready, he made his men a short speech in which he said—and that was nearly all he said—"There are the Redcoats; they are ours, or Mollie[2] Stark sleeps a widow tonight."

It was 3 o'clock. The signal of attack—the opening fire of Nichols' men—was heard; Stark advanced upon the centre and a furious fire was poured in from every side. But the enemy were stubborn and held their ground for two hours. Then the patriots rushed upon their breastworks, swept everything before them, captured their two pieces of artillery and a large number of prisoners; and the rest abandoned their works and fled. But such a charge always breaks up the organization of the attacking party, and the Americans neglected to re-form and prepare for further action. Some prepared refreshments; some plundered the enemy's camp, and all were off their guard. While in this condition, Stark learned that Breyman's reinforcement of 644 Brunswickers, with two brass field pieces and a number of tories, was within two miles of him. The men were rallied, ammunition was distributed, and the fight was renewed. Again the enemy fought stubbornly, but when our tired men were nearly exhausted, Col. Warner's battalion, under Major Safford, arrived from Manchester. Stark said to Warner, "For God's sake fall in and let us take breath." With the aid of those fresh troops the fury of the fight was renewed, and at sunset the

[1] A short description of the campaign and battle is given for the reason that Keene and Cheshire county were well represented there; and because no other battle has ever been fought so near Keene. The roar of the British cannon was distinctly heard in this town, and even ten miles further east.

[2] Hiland Hall's History of Vermont, and the language used on the monument at Bennington; but Mrs. Stark's name was not Mollie, but Elizabeth. He probably said "Betty Stark."

enemy gave way and fled in disorder. Stark pursued until dark, captured the other two field pieces, twelve brass drums, all their transportation and horses, 1,000 small arms and about 700 prisoners, among them Baum, who died of his wounds. Two hundred and seven of their dead were found on the field next morning. The English and German prisoners were treated with kindness and sent to Boston; but the tories were regarded as traitors and were treated as such. There were 155 of them; and they were tied in pairs to a long rope, a poor old horse was hitched to the end of the rope and they were led away to jail. Stark's loss was about thirty[1] killed and forty wounded. Among the killed were Michael Metcalf, Jr., and William Wood of Keene, and Joshua Fuller of Surry, showing that Capt. Mack's company was in the hottest of the fight. The names of the wounded were not given.[2]

This brilliant victory raised the spirits of the people and relieved them from the fear of the destruction of their homes and property by invasion. Stark made no report of the battle, except to the authorities of New Hampshire, but congress heard of it indirectly and passed a vote of thanks and promoted him to be brigadier general in the Continental army. After some hesitation, he accepted the appointment, and, with a fresh brigade raised for him, moved forward and joined the army on the 16th of September; and Nichols' regiment was present at the battle of Stillwater on the 19th. But its term of enlistment had expired, as had that of the other Bennington troops, and it was discharged on the 23d, and the men came home.

Previous to the action at Stillwater, Major Henry

[1] The British were on higher ground and shot over.

[2] Maj. Ellis, Josiah Richardson, Joshua Durant and others, immediately crossed the Green Mountains, and soon found themselves in front of the Hessian breastwork, sustaining and returning an incessant fire. The major, somewhat excited, ordered a charge, and himself and most of his men leaped over, among whom was Durant. The Hessians wavered, scattered and fled. Durant pursued a party of three, and gaining fast upon them, the hindmost turned back, their muskets at this moment touching each other. Durant fired first and killed his antagonist. While reloading, the other two turned back upon him. He wrenched his bayonet from his gun, seized one by the collar, and was about to stab the other, when both called for quarter and surrendered themselves prisoners. The three were brothers. For many years afterwards, Durant occasionally wore, as trophies, a waistcoat and silver mounted breast pin taken from the man he had killed.

Mr. Richardson came home with the glory of having captured three Hessians. He allowed the world to believe the story to be true, as in fact it was, but to his friends he admitted that, either from terror, or dissatisfaction with their condition, they appeared to be not very unwilling captives. (Annals, page 51.)

Dearborn had been placed in command of a battalion of 300 picked men, mostly from Scammel's regiment, in which was the Keene company under Capt. William Ellis, to act as light infantry with Col. Morgan's corps of riflemen. The battle was opened by those troops, sent forward as skirmishers to attack and harass Burgoyne's right flank; and they were sharply engaged, and captured one piece of artillery, but could not bring it off. At 2 o'clock, Arnold, who commanded the American left, sent forward the three New Hampshire Continental regiments, and they made a gallant fight with the British right. Some pieces of British artillery were taken and retaken several times. Getting short of ammunition the Americans withdrew, taking with them their wounded and about 100 prisoners. The British held the ground that night, but withdrew the next day, and left the victory to the Americans. A large share of the fighting was done by the New Hampshire troops, and they were highly complimented for their bravery Among the killed was Andrew Colburn of Marlboro, lieutenant colonel of Scammel's regiment. In Capt. Ellis's company of about forty men, three were killed and several wounded.

On the 7th of October, Burgoyne, in desperation, again attacked the Americans, and again the New Hampshire troops were conspicuous for their gallantry. That battle was won by the patriot soldiers themselves and their subordinate commanders, no general officer of high rank appearing on the field except Arnold, who was without a command. Among those who were killed or died of wounds received in these engagements were Daniel Snow, of Col. Scammel's regiment, wounded Sept. 19, died Sept. 30; John Crossfield, of the same regiment, wounded Oct. 7, died Oct. 12; and Nathaniel Briggs, of Lt. Col. Reid's regiment, wounded Oct. 7, died Oct. 18, all of Keene. Snow is reported, on different rolls, both as "died of wounds Sept. 30th," and "killed in battle Oct. 7, 1777."

In this campaign to repel the invasion of Burgoyne—considered one of the decisive ones of all history—the little state of New Hampshire, then almost a wilderness, furnished more than 6,000 men and contributed very largely to the grand results attained.

Immediately after Burgoyne's surrender on the 17th, Poor's brigade of New Hampshire Continentals marched forty miles in fourteen hours, fording the Mohawk river on the way, to check the British advance up the Hudson to relieve Burgoyne. When that force retired they marched to Pennsylvania, and with the rest of Washington's army, suffered the hardships and privations of that terrible winter at Valley Forge. The 18th of December was designated by congress, and heartily observed by the people, as a day of thanksgiving and praise to God, our first national Thanksgiving.

While their soldiers had taken part in decisive operations at the front, important matters had come up for action on the part of the people at home. On the 3d of October the state committee of safety "Appointed Major Philbrick to go to Keen, and provide Stores for the Soldiers passing there from this place (Exeter), and Deal it out," thus establishing a small depot of supplies at this point.

The citizens of Keene, and particularly the members of the church, were tired of the long interim between settled ministers. A good report was heard of a young divinity student at Cheshire, Ct., Mr. Aaron Hall — probably through their ex-minister, Rev. Clement Sumner, as he came from that place — and in the spring of 1777, Dea. Daniel Kingsbury was commissioned to visit Mr. Hall and invite him to preach in Keene as a candidate. He came and preached several times during the summer; and a legal town meeting on the 15th of September, Col. Isaac Wyman, moderator — now discharged from his honorable military service — "voted unanimously to hear Mr Hall preach further on Probation." This was the beginning of the highly creditable term, of nearly forty years' duration, of Rev. Aaron Hall as pastor of the church in Keene.

At a town meeting on the 8th of December, Dr. Thomas Frink, moderator, it was "Voted unanimously to Give Mr A. Hall, who has been Preaching among us, a Call to Settle in the Work of the Gospel Ministry in This Town.

"Voted to Give Mr Hall One hundred and Thirty Three pounds Six Shillings and Eight pence for a Settlement said

sum to be made Equal in Value and made as Good as the Same Sum was four years ago when Silver and Gold passed current among us."

Eighty pounds per annum were voted as his salary; that also to be made the equivalent of gold and silver.

Major Timothy Ellis, Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, Lieut. Josiah Richardson, Lieut. Daniel Kingsbury and Ichabod Fisher were chosen a committee to lay the proposition before Mr. Hall and to adjust the amount of his settlement and salary in the paper money of the times; but the committee was instructed to defer the adjustment "till the Tax for said sums is called for by reason of the Fluctuating state of money." Messrs. Gideon Ellis, David Nims and Benjamin Hall were the members of this committee appointed by the church. Mr. Hall accepted the call in a long letter dated Jan. 17, 1778.

For six years the church and the town had been without a pastor. "Nineteen candidates had tried in vain" for a settlement. The twentieth one succeeded and was beloved and respected by all his people. Mr. Hall was ordained on the 18th of February following. The church committee on the ordination consisted of "the following Brothers viz. Mr. David Nims, Deacon Obadiah Blake, Mr. Simeon Clark, Mr. Benjamin Hall, Mr. Daniel Kingsbury." The council was composed of the pastors and delegates from the churches of Windsor and Wallingford, Conn.; and those of New Ipswich, Rev. Mr. Farrar; Fitzwilliam, Rev. Mr. Brigham; Swanzey, Rev. Mr. Goddard; Chesterfield, Rev. Mr. Wood; Walpole, Rev. Mr. Fessenden; Charlestown, Rev. Mr. Olcott; Claremont, Rev. Mr. Hibbard; Dublin, Rev. Mr. Sprague. The council was entertained at the tavern of Lieut. Josiah Richardson, on Pleasant street, and the next annual town meeting voted him "Forty six pounds Twelve Shillings for providing for the Council at Mr Halls Ordination."

The legislature met at Portsmouth on the 17th of September, Major Timothy Ellis representing Keene. A new apportionment of taxes was made, giving the number of polls and an inventory of the ratable estates. Keene returned 167 polls, Richmond 177, Westmoreland 178, and

Chesterfield 189, the largest in the county; but Keene returned much the largest amount of taxable property.

In consequence of the scarcity of wool and leather, an act was passed prohibiting the sale of cattle and sheep to go out of the state except for the use of our armies. An act was also passed "to prevent the pernicious practice of Distilling into any kind of spirits whatever, Cyder, Perry [the juice of pears], Wheat, Indian Corn, rye, Barley & Oats, or either of them."

Another act was passed to compel the people to use paper money instead of gold and silver, and to take it at the same value, dollar for dollar. But experience proved that the laws of trade are more potent than those of legislatures, for that law could not be enforced.

At the town meeting on the 8th of December, 1777, Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, Capt. Davis Howlett and Mr. Jabez Fisher were successively chosen representatives to the legislature, but all declined to serve. (Probably on account of a division of sentiment in the town concerning the Vermont and New Hampshire controversy. See chapter on New Hampshire Grants). Major Timothy Ellis was then reëlected "for the space of one year."

CHAPTER IX.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR—CONCLUDED.

1778—1783.

A town meeting held at the schoolhouse, Jan. 19, 1778, Col. Isaac Wyman, moderator, "after reading and conferring upon the articles of Confederation of the Continental Congress," voted to instruct the representative to vote in favor of calling a convention of delegates from the towns with a view to forming a plan of government for the state, in accordance with the recommendation of the house of representatives passed on the 27th of December previous.

"Voted to adjust the sums paid to Continental soldiers so as to put all on equality."

The legislature met at Exeter on the 11th of February. Major Timothy Ellis represented Keene. On the 25th, the articles of confederation of the states were adopted, and a convention of delegates from all the towns was called to meet at Concord on the 10th of June, to form a plan of government for the state. In the effort to relieve the financial distress of the people, another issue of 40,000 pounds of paper money was added to that already afloat.

The courts were reëstablished, and Col. Samuel Ashley of Winchester was appointed first justice of the court of common pleas for Cheshire county, with Col. Benjamin Bellows of Walpole, Col. Samuel Hunt of Charlestown, and Dea. Thomas Applin of Swanzey, associate justices. Other appointments had been made, but no regular courts had been held since 1774, until this year. Col. Isaac Wyman was appointed one of the justices to administer the oath to the judges.

In April, the town chose Capt. Jeremiah Stiles delegate to the convention which met at Concord on the 10th of June, "to form a Constitution and plan of government for the state."

In May, three of the selectmen, Jeremiah Stiles, Silas Cook and Simeon Clark, petitioned the legislature for permission to set up a lottery for the purpose of raising money to build a bridge across the "East Branch," at South Keene. The sum needed, in the currency of the time, was estimated at $6,500. The petition was supported by another signed by the selectmen of Dublin, Jaffrey and Rindge; but the request was not granted. The bridge which had previously been built there had been nearly destroyed by high water.

When Gen. Clinton left Philadelphia in June, to march across New Jersey to New York, Washington moved out from his encampment at Valley Forge to strike him on the flank. He had formed a light infantry corps of 1,500 men, giving Col. Cilley of New Hampshire command of one of the regiments, with Henry Dearborn promoted to lieutenant colonel. That corps, and particularly Cilley's regiment,[1] was composed chiefly of New Hampshire men—acknowledged to be among the best in the army—and, from tradition and other indirect data, it is believed that the Keene company, under Capt. Ellis, was in that corps, though the records which doubtless would have established that fact were destroyed by the British at Washington, in 1814.[2] Poor's brigade and all the New Hampshire troops were in the division of Gen. Charles Lee, who was sent forward by Washington to make the attack on Clinton. But Lee was a coward and a traitor, and skulked to the rear, leaving his troops to be attacked at disadvantage and thrown into some confusion and compelled to retreat. Two miles to the rear they met Washington, who reformed them behind a battery of twelve pieces of artillery, which he had placed on a ridge. It was just at the close of the day, and the British began to retire. Without knowing what troops they were, Washington sent orders to Cilley to advance

[1] "Cilley's New Hampshire regiment was the most distinguished corps in the battle of Monmouth, and the salvation of the army was owing to their heroic courage." (Col. Swett, in Appendix to Humphrey's Life of Gen. Putnam.)

[2] Ziba Hall (a member of Capt. Ellis's company), "son of Jesse Hall & Achsah his wife Dyed in the army at Pensylvania state January 28 1778 aged 21 years wanting one Day.

"William Nelson (of Keene) Dyed in the army Novem. 3d 1776 in the 46th year of Life.

"William Nelson son of the above Dyed in the army April 14th 1778 in the 18th year of Life." (Town Record of Deaths.)

and attack, and the order was promptly obeyed. When within 200 yards of them, the enemy turned to repel the attack. Col. Cilley deployed his regiment into line; but there were two rail fences between the two lines of combatants. The New Hampshire men marched up and coolly took down those fences—the last one within sixty yards of the British, who poured in a heavy fire which our men did not deign to return—then deliberately shouldered arms and advanced to charge them with the bayonet. The enemy fled, filed off by their left into a swamp, and renewed the fight. Cilley's men wheeled to the right and again advanced upon them, and when within four rods halted, dressed lines, and gave them a volley from the whole battalion front. The enemy again fled and joined their main body.[1] Poor's brigade was engaged to the left of Cilley. Our army now advanced and recovered the field of battle.

In the early part of this year, a regiment under Col. Timothy Bedel was raised and stationed along the frontier, for the protection of the Connecticut valley, now exposed to invasion by Indians, tories and Canadians; and Col. Hazen's regiment of Continental troops, composed partly of New Hampshire men, marched from Springfield, Mass., to No. 4, and thence to the upper Connecticut valley for the same purpose.

A brigade under Gen. Whipple was also raised for Gen. Sullivan's campaign against the British in Rhode Island. Col. Moses Nichols joined that brigade with nine companies of his militia regiment; Col. Enoch Hale, of Rindge, went with four of his companies—one commanded by Capt. Samuel Twitchell, of Dublin, another by Capt. James Lewis, of Marlboro—and Capt. William Lee, of Chesterfield, commanded a company in the battalion of Col. Moses Kelly, of Goffstown. The men from Keene who enlisted in that campaign were Joseph Brown, Ephraim Witherell, Walter Wheeler, Thomas Morse, and Arthur Cary, who went for Surry.

When Washington's army went into winter quarters, in November, Putnam's division, in which were our New

[1] Washington sent an aide to inquire what regiment it was. "Cilley's of New Hampshire—full blooded Yankees, by God, Sir," was Dearborn's reply. (Col. Swett, in Appendix to Humphrey's Life of Gen. Putnam.)

Hampshire troops, marched to Danbury, Conn., built log-huts and quartered there. Lt. Col. Dearborn, with 400 New Hampshire men, did garrison duty a part of the winter at New London.

In November, the legislature passed an act confiscating the property of certain prominent and obnoxious tories in the state. Among them were Breed Batcheller, of Packersfield; Simon Baxter and William Baxter, of Alstead; "Josiah Pomeroy, physician; Elijah Williams, Esq.; Thomas Cutler (or Cutter), Gentleman; Eleazur Sanger, yeoman, and Robert Gilmore, yeoman, of Keene." Benjamin Giles, of Newport, Major Timothy Ellis, of Keene, and Elijah Babcock were appointed the committee to enter and take possession of the confiscated estates in this county. Those estates were placed in charge of the judge of probate, and in 1780, Daniel Newcomb, who had come to Keene in 1778, and begun the practice of law, was appointed administrator of the estates of Dr. Pomeroy and Elijah Williams, and their estates were settled the same as in case of deceased persons; and the other confiscated estates were disposed of in a similar manner.

The annual town meeting this year voted to seat the meetinghouse and chose Silas Cook, Abraham Wheeler, Simeon Clark, Reuben Partridge and Ichabod Fisher, a committee to direct the work.

The adjourned constitutional convention met in June, and sent out a "Bill of Rights and Plan of Government" to be voted on by the people. That plan was rejected, Keene voting unanimously against it; and the laws continued to be administered under the temporary government adopted for the war.

The legislature met at Exeter on the 16th of June, Lieut. Josiah Richardson representing Keene. On the 18th, the resignation of Samuel Ashley of Winchester, as colonel, and the next day, that of Joseph Hammond of Swanzey, as lieutenant colonel "of the 6th regiment of militia," were received and accepted; leaving Major Timothy Ellis of Keene in command of the regiment, and he was soon afterwards promoted to the colonelcy.

During that month, another call came for troops for

Rhode Island, and a battalion of 300 men, under Col. Mooney, was raised for a short term. Ephraim Witherell of Keene was a sergeant, afterwards promoted to ensign, in the company of Capt. Ephraim Stone of Westmoreland; and Arthur Cary enlisted on the quota of Surry in the same company, but John Hill went as his substitute. Joseph Brown of Keene also enlisted in the same battalion.

The legislature offered a bounty of $300 to each man who would enlist, in addition to the $200 offered by congress. The quota of Major Ellis's regiment for that service, that year, was thirty-three men. Three enlisted for Keene—Lemuel Tucker,[1] John Green and John Hill—hired from out of town to fill the quota in accordance with a vote of the town. Keene was still a recruiting station, and Major Ellis, the muster-master, and forty-seven men mustered by him, marched from here during the summer to join the Continental army. They were paid six pounds each for billeting from here to Springfield, Mass.

In 1778, the Seneca Indians, aided by the British, had destroyed the village of Wyoming, in Pennsylvania, massacred or carried away captives all the inhabitants, and burned every dwelling. With the opening of the spring of 1779, upon the solicitation of Washington, Gen. Sullivan was appointed to the command of an expedition into the country of those Indians to chastise them, and prevent further outrages of that kind. Sullivan asked for the New Hampshire troops, and Poor's brigade, in the Third regiment of which was the Keene company, Capt. Ellis, was assigned to him. Early in April, the command left its quarters and marched via Peekskill, N. Y., and Easton, Pa., to Wyoming, and thence up the Susquehanna river into the beautiful Chemung valley in New York, destroyed the Indian town of that name and the crops and villages wherever found. Near the junction of the Tioga and Susquehanna rivers, Sullivan was joined by a force from the Mohawk valley, which gave him three brigades, numbering about 4,000 men. On the 29th of August, at the Indian village of Newtown, near the present Elmira, he

[1] Revolutionary Rolls, vol. 3, pages 700-2, give an account of the pay and bounties received by the soldiers named above.

attacked the savages under Joseph Brandt, with about 200 British under Capt. Butler, and routed them. Three Americans were killed and thirty-two wounded. Capt. Elijah Clayes, of Fitzwilliam, and one lieutenant were mortally wounded. The village was burned and the crops destroyed. The expedition advanced to Seneca and Cayuga lakes and thence to the Genesee valley, sending out detachments and burning and destroying everything as they went, among them the large Indian town of Canandaigua. All through those beautiful valleys of western New York, they found a surprising degree of civilization, thriving villages, extensive peach and apple orchards, luxuriant crops of all kinds, and everything to indicate prosperity, wealth and happiness. The stronghold of the Senecas, near the present Geneseo, was a town of 128 comfortable houses, with well kept gardens and a general air of comparative luxury and refinement. All these were destroyed. Not a building or a field of crops was anywhere left standing. The army penetrated to within twenty miles of Lake Ontario, and then returned, reaching Easton, Pa., on the 15th of October. The New Hampshire troops, Stark's brigade joining them, again wintered in Connecticut, at a place called Wild Cat.

At an adjournment of a town meeting, held on the 7th of September, 1779—the one that voted against the proposed plan of state government—the following preamble and vote were passed: "Whereas the Selectmen of Portsmouth sent an address to this and the rest of the towns in this State, desiring their presence and assistance, by their delegates, to meet at Concord, in convention, to see if they can come into some agreement to state the price of the several articles bought and sold in this state; therefore, voted, that Capt. Jeremiah Stiles attend said convention, as a delegate from this town."

At another meeting on the 20th of October, the town voted 330 pounds to pay the expense of raising men for the Rhode Island campaign, and 431 pounds for that of raising men for the Continental service.

Article 6, "To se if the Town will do any thing towards providing stuff for Building a new meeting house," was dismissed.

In November, the legislature granted the petition of Gen. James Reed for "the use and improvement of a certain house and about twenty-five acres of land adjoining in Keen, being the confiscated estate of Dr. Josiah Pomeroy, an absentee, until further order of this Court, and that he enter into possession as soon as the present Lease expires." The judge of probate was directed "not to sell the confiscated estate of Dr. Josiah Pomeroy." The location of Dr. Pomeroy's residence has already been described (page 215). Gen. Reed came to Keene soon after this time and occupied those premises. "This Gen. Reed, whose ordinary place of residence was Fitzwilliam, is remembered here as an aged blind man, and as almost daily seen, after the close of the war, walking up and down Main-street, aiding, and guided by, Mr. Washburn, who was paralysed on one side. He received a pension." (Annals, page 51.)

A town meeting on the 7th of December, 1779, chose Lieut. Josiah Richardson representative to the legislature; and dismissed the article, "To se if it be the mind of the Town to choose a committe to state the price of Articles bought and sold, agreable to the convention of this state."

The winter of 1779–80 was one of great severity and hardship, and there was much suffering both among the people and in the army. The crops had not been abundant, and provisions were so scarce in New Hampshire that the legislature prohibited their export except in certain cases. The paper money of congress was now so depreciated that it took thirty dollars of it to buy one dollar's worth of commodities, and its value was still waning. People in the vicinity of the army declined to take it for provisions, even to keep the soldiers from starving, until they were told that the provisions must be had and would be taken in any event, when they reluctantly sold at exorbitant prices. The soldiers were dissatisfied, and desertions and failures to reënlist reduced the army to a skeleton. Very few accepted the large bounties offered. Many soldiers were at home on furlough, and officers on leave, most of them destitute of money. An act was passed by the legislature granting $400 to each private and $500 to

each non-commissioned officer "in part of depreciation" of the currency; and in February it was voted "That there be advanced * * * * towards depreciation, to each colonel $4,000, to each captain $2,000," and other officers according to rank, "to enable them to repair to the army." Congress made a requisition on New Hampshire for $15,000,000, which was voted to be raised by taxation, notwithstanding the poverty of the people.

"In this year [1779], Capt. Mack, of Gilsum, probably incited by some of the zealous whigs in Keene, collected a party with a view of apprehending several tories, who resided here, and who were suspected of furnishing the enemy with provisions. On the evening of the 30th of May,[1] they assembled at Partridge's tavern, near Wright's mills, on the road to Surry. In the night, Mack sent forward several men, with directions to place themselves separately at the doors of those houses where the tories resided, and prevent their escape. At sunrise he rode into Keene, at the head of his party, with a drawn sword; and when he came to the house of a tory, he ordered the sentinel, standing at the door, to 'turn out the prisoner.' The prisoner being brought out, and placed in the midst of his party, he proceeded onward. Having gone through the street, collected all of them, and searched their cellars for provisions, of which he found little, he returned to the tavern of Mr. Hall, situated where Dr. Twitchell's house now stands, and confined them in a chamber.

"But when he first made his appearance, information was sent to Mr. Howlet, who then commanded the militia, of the commotion in the village. He instantly sent expresses to warn his company to appear forthwith in the street, with their arms and ammunition. They came about the middle of the forenoon, were paraded, facing South, in front of the meeting-house, then standing South of where it now does—on a line with the North line of West-street—and were ordered to load their guns with powder and ball. Mack paraded his company across the street from the tavern to the Watson house, facing their antagonists. Col. Alexander, of Winchester, who then commanded the regiment, had been sent for, and now came. He asked Capt. Mack if he intended to pursue his object? I do,

[1] The first lines of a song, remembered by an aged citizen, fixes the day when this party visited Keene:

"Upon the thirty-first of May,
"Appeared in Keene, at break of day,
"A mob, both bold and stout."

Those who lived in these times, well remember that the muses were not silent amid the din of arms.

replied he, at the hazard of my life. Then, said the Colonel, emphatically, you must prepare for eternity, for you shall not be permitted to take vengeance, in this irregular mode, on any men, even if they are tories. This resolute speech cooled the ardor of many. After deliberating a while, Mack ordered his party to face about, and led them a short distance southward; and the militia then went into the meeting-house. Not long afterwards the mob faced about again, and marched silently, by the meeting-house, towards Surry; but though silently, they did not march in silence, for the women, as they passed, furnished noisy and lively music, on tin pans and warming pans, until they disappeared from view.

"This occurrence is now [1850] related on the authority of John Guild, who then lived in the village, is now eighty-one years of age, and distinctly remembers what then took place. He says, moreover, that one of the tories taken was a Mr Wadsworth, a blacksmith, who lived in a house situated where Dr. C. G. Adams's house now is, and was called the Fort House. The relics of a blacksmith's shop are still visible on the lot adjoining Dr Adam's, North.

"The relater's father, Dan Guild, settled in Keene, in 1758, and lived in a house situated where the Judge Newcomb house was afterwards built and yet remains. He remembers that there was one room, in his father's house, the walls of which consisted of timber nearly a foot square, and presumes such timber was used as a protection against the Indians.

"Dan Guild was a somewhat distinguished man in those early times. He is described, in the town records, as Lieutenant Dan Guild; he was one of the committee appointed to 'judge, determine and act' on all violations of the laws of Keene, when all other laws were silent; he was jailor of the county, and removed the jail from the place where it was first established, near where the Emerald House stands, to his own house, then situated between the Field house and the Washburn house; or, to speak intelligibly to the present generation, between Dr Smith's house and the compiler's; a few years afterwards he was appointed one of a committee to build a new jail, and built one, of wood, in Washington-street, where the stone jail now stands."

(Annals, pages 54, 55.)

The winter of 1779-80 was the most severe that had ever been known in this country. "Chesapeake Bay is covered with solid ice from its head to the mouth of the Potomac. At Annapolis the ice is five to seven inches

thick, so that loaded teams pass over it." (Jefferson's notes.) "Snow was so deep in all New England that all roads were closed for some weeks." "People travelled only on snow-shoes." "Travel has not been so much obstructed for forty years." (Boston Chronicle, Jan. 28, 1780.)

The annual town meeting in 1780 voted to instruct the selectmen to adjust Mr. Hall's salary with him, in consequence of the depreciation of the currency, the equivalent sum to be ascertained in the month of September. (In October of that year the ratio of paper money to specie was 67 to 1.) Two thousand pounds were raised for the support of schools, the selectmen to act as school committee.

"Voted the Sum of Five Thousand pounds to be assessed on the pools and Estates for mending the roads in said Town said sum to be paid by the Inhabitance in Labour on said Roads at four Dollars for Each hours Labour per man and for Oxen and other utensils Equivalent as usual."

The article to reimburse the Continental soldiers for the depreciation of the currency was dismissed.

"Voted that the Singing in publick worship be performed without Reading Line by Line as they sing."

The 19th of May was remarkable for a thick darkness that extended over all New England, and adjacent parts of New York and Canada. Candles were lighted and fowls went to roost in the middle of the day. The cause was believed to be the smoke of extensive forest fires mingled with the vapors of a rainy morning.

In June, 1780, upon a requisition for more troops for the Continental service, the legislature ordered a draft, if found necessary, from the militia, and designated the quotas of the several regiments and towns. The quota of Keene was five men; and Peter Wilder, Daniel Day, Oliver Osgood and Nehemiah Town,[1] volunteered, and John Curtis was hired as a recruit from out of town. The term was for six months, and the town voted them a bounty of fifty dollars each, in currency "as it is valued and stipulated in the act of Court." The three first, and probably all, went into Lt. Col. Dearborn's corps of light infantry.

[1] Josiah Reed of "Chickaby in Springfield" went as substitute for Nehemiah Town.

The legislature also called upon the towns "to furnish their respective proportions of the Quantity of Beef required by Congress for the supply of the army; That the Committee of Safety be directed to purchase such quantities of Rum as they shall see necessary from time to time, for the supply of the army; That each Town & place within this state be called upon to supply the Board of War their several quotas of clothing (especially shirts, stocks & stockings) for the supply of the army," etc. The people of the Connecticut valley were requested by the committee of safety not to sell their wheat and flour, but to hold them for sale to the state authorities.

A town meeting on the 20th of July, 1780, "voted to raise 11,309 lbs. Weight of Beef each person to have Liberty to pay his equal Proportion thereof in Beef or to pay so much money in Lieu thereof as he was taxed in the Last state and continental Tax."

A pressing call was also made in June for immediate reinforcements for the army, to serve three months. Two regiments were raised and sent forward via Worcester and Springfield. One of these was commanded by the veteran Col. Moses Nichols, of Amherst, in which was a company from Winchester, under Capt. Nehemiah Houghton. In that company, Joshua Durant was ensign, and Elijah Blake, Walter Wheeler and Joseph Brown were privates, all of Keene. The regiment was designed especially for the protection of West Point and joined Arnold's army at that post. Col. Nichols, with his regiment, encamped near Arnold's headquarters at the Robinson House, on the 10th of August, and were there at the time of his treason. Those troops were discharged on the 21st of October.

The legislature also ordered two companies of sixty men each to be raised for the protection of the western frontier of the state. Capt. Ephraim Stone of Westmoreland, commanded one of the companies, and Ebenezer Billings of Keene was a sergeant in his company.

About the middle of October, a party of 300 British and Indians under Lieut. Horton made a raid on Royalton, Vt., and towns in that vicinity, killed a number of the inhabitants, took twenty-five prisoners, burnt buildings and

plundered and destroyed property. The alarm spread rapidly, and that evening several hundred men collected at Royalton and organized, and pursued the enemy so hotly that they abandoned their plunder, but retained their captives. The alarm continued to spread—exaggerated in in some cases until it became a panic—and volunteers rallied in all the towns in the Connecticut valley, and even in the central and eastern parts of the state. Col. Timothy Ellis went from Keene with two companies, under Captains John Houghton and Josiah Richardson, and marched as far as Haverhill. Nearly every town sent a company, and several of the larger ones sent two. But the marauders escaped with their prisoners and took them to Canada. One died, but the rest were exchanged and reached their homes the next summer.

During this season, the more active scenes of the war were in the South. The New Hampshire Continental troops were stationed in New Jersey, and upon the discovery of Arnold's treason, they were immediately ordered to West Point to defend that stronghold. Capt. William Ellis had resigned on the first of January, and, in July, Lieut. Benjamin Ellis was promoted to fill his place. Upon the approach of winter, the troops again built log-huts for quarters, at a place called Soldier's Fortune, on the Hudson river, and spent the winter there. The camp was called "New Hampshire Village."

Capt. Benjamin Ellis was at home that winter, on recruiting service, stationed at Charlestown. Col. Timothy Ellis was the muster-master here, and Keene was still a rendezvous for recruits and a depot of supplies. In January, the legislature had apportioned among the towns the number of recruits called for by congress for the Continental army, the towns to receive a bounty of twenty dollars for each recruit mustered into the service. At a meeting on the 7th of February, 1781, the town voted to raise its quota of twelve men at once; and chose a committee to divide the ratable inhabitants of the town into twelve classes, each class to furnish one man "upon their own charge" as soon as may be. That committee consisted of Capt. Josiah Richardson, Ichabod Fisher, Lieut.

Dan Guild, Lieut. Reuben Partridge, Major Davis Howlett and Silas Cook. Naboth Bettison and James Eddy, Keene men, who had already served one term of three years in Capt. Ellis's company, besides performing other service in 1775 and 1776, reënlisted for three years or the war, Eddy on the quota of Westmoreland. Silas Porter, sixteen years old, and John Morehouse, both of Charlestown, were hired and enlisted for the war, on the quota of Keene.

The annual town meeting in 1781 voted Mr. Hall's salary in the same way as the previous year; and raised eight thousand pounds for highways, "in Bills of old Continental Currency," to be paid in labor at the same rates as in the year before; and four thousand pounds in the same currency for schools. At an adjournment of that meeting in May, another quota of beef was voted to be raised for the army. On the same day, May 30, at a meeting warned for the purpose, Daniel Newcomb was chosen a delegate to the convention which met at Concord in June, "to form a constitution and plan of government for this state."[1] The same meeting nominated Thomas Baker for justice of the peace, and he was appointed and served as a magistrate for many years.

Again, in the spring of this year, the militia of the Connecticut valley was called upon for two companies of sixty-five men each, in addition to Whitcomb's battalion already in the field, to protect the western frontier of the state. Col. Ellis's quota was one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign and forty-four enlisted men, to serve till November. The rolls of those companies have not been preserved.

In June, upon the earnest solicitation of Washington, the legislature ordered another regiment of 650 men to be raised for the Continental army—to march to West Point. Keene was called upon for five men, and the names of those enlisted were Peter Rice, Zenas Lebourveau, Caleb Balch, Cyrus Balch and Asa Brittain. Rice died in the service, Nov. 20. The others were discharged Dec. 21. The regiment was commanded by Lt. Col. Daniel Reynolds (or Runnels), and had marched as far as Springfield, Mass.,

[1] That convention continued for more than two years and held nine sessions. (Belknap's History of New Hampshire.) Daniel Newcomb was the delegate from Keene during the convention.

when it was ordered to Charlestown, N. H., for the protection of the interests of New Hampshire in her controversy concerning the "New Hampshire Grants."

At that June session of the legislature was authorized the first public mail route in this part of the state, upon the proposition of John Balch of Keene; and on the 27th of July, it was established by the committee of safety. Mr. Balch was appointed post-rider, and he was to "set out from Portsmouth on Saturday morning & to ride to Haverhill by the way of Concord & Plymouth, and thence down the River to Charlestown, Keene and to Portsmouth again, which Tour is to be punctually performed once in each & every fourteen days."

"The said Balch is to Convey all public Acts, Letters & Dispatches free of Charge—For which Service he shall receive from this State seventy hard Dollars or paper money equivalent.—

M. Weare Prest"

"I, John Balch do hereby agree to the foregoing proposals and engage punctually to perform the duty of Post-rider agreably thereto.

John Balch."

The first term was for three months, but Mr. Balch continued to ride for two years, and then Timothy Balch, of Keene, took the contract and rode two years, and was reappointed in 1785. The journey was made on horseback except in winter. The route remained substantially the same for several years. No appointment of a postmaster in Keene at this time has been found.

In August and September, 1781, Washington quickly transferred his army from around New York to Yorktown, Va., and on the 19th of October, Cornwallis surrendered. The war was virtually ended, and joy and exultation filled the hearts of the people.

Whether our soldiers from Keene were present at the surrender is not certainly known, but some of the New Hampshire troops[1] were in that movement. Upon their return, one regiment under Lt. Col. Henry Dearborn went into winter quarters at Saratoga, the other under Lt. Col. George Reid, on the Mohawk river, both in a department

[1] "A majority of the American army that captured Cornwallis was composed of New England troops." (Daniel Webster—speech in United States senate.)

commanded by Gen. Stark, the three New Hampshire regiments having been consolidated into two.

A town meeting in November, 1781, chose Dea. Daniel Kingsbury representative for the ensuing year.

A meeting on the 11th of December, discussed the plan of government sent out by the convention for examination by the people, and though objecting to one paragraph, voted to accept it as it stood, rather than reject it. But that plan was rejected by the people of the state.

During the winter many officers and soldiers came home, as there was no call for their services. Most of them were destitute of money, and the state had no funds with which to pay them. In January, 1782, the legislature voted them one month's pay in beef and rum. The poverty of the nation and of the people was distressing. Congress had no power to impose taxes or collect duties—had no revenue whatever—and its paper promises to pay had constantly depreciated in value, until they were practically worthless. The nation, the states, and the towns were all deeply in debt.

In a letter to Col. Samuel Hunt, commissary at Charlestown, dated July 28, 1781, Mesech Weare, chairman of the committee of safety and acting governor of the state, had said:

"The Difficulty respecting the money is truly alarming—as for hard money, we have none, nor can it be procured on any terms. The Com^{tee} have sent you, by Mr Balch who is employed as a Post Rider three hundred pounds of the continental new Emission and will furnish you with more as necessity may require, if this will answer, and if the Continental Currency will not answer we have it not in our power to furnish any other."

The country was still almost wholly covered with forest, and the people had been too poor to make roads, build bridges, or, except in a few cases, erect any but the cheapest dwellings. Specie was so scarce that trade was carried on chiefly by barter. The people were mostly farmers and subsisted on what they could raise, or obtain by exchanges, and clothed themselves with their own manufactures; while the few mechanics, merchants and professional men bartered their skill, their labor, or their goods for the

products of the soil and the skill and labor of others. The people, always inclined to expect too much from political measures, were disappointed at the results of their scheme of national independence, and some of them "longed for the flesh pots of Egypt." In some places they became refractory and mutinous.

In December of this year, a strong petition of Cheshire county men was sent to the general assembly representing:

"That your Petitioners together with Other Inhabitants of this State Labour under great and almost Intolerable Grievances for want of Currency; there being among us not One fourth part of hard money for a medium of Trade. Our Distance from the Seaports and our Situation in many Respects such that it is impossible for us to Obtain hard money in a way of trade—the consequence is that Lawsuits are Daily increasing and Lawyers (tho often Necessary) take Exorbitant fees by means of the Laws being imperfect (in that Respect) all which Grievances have a tendency to stir up mobs, Riots, Anarchy & Confusion—We therefore humbly pray that your honours in your Wisdom will Devise means by which said Grievances may be Redressed by making State Securities Live Stock and Country Produce of all Kinds a Lawfull Tender to answer all Executions Levied on Debtors—said Securities Computed at their Nominal value and Country produce to be appraised by Substantial men; * * * * * we therefore pray your honours to take the same under your wise Consideration and grant us Such Relief therein as you shall think best and we as in Duty bound shall Ever pray—

"Decem^{r} 16 1782."

The names of citizens of Keene on that petition were:

"Stephen Griswold	John Griggs	Josiah Willard
Sam^{ll} Daniels	Benja Hall	Jonas Prescott
Thaddeus Metcalf	Caleb Tucker	David Nims Jr.
Michal Metcalf	Benja^{n} Willis	Ebenezer Carpenter
Jesse Clark	Ezra Harvey	Timothy Ellis Jr.
Josiah Ellis	Aaron Willson	Abijah Metcalf."
Abijah Wilder	Thomas Fisher	
Ichabod Fisher	Elisha Briggs	

The controversy concerning the New Hampshire Grants threatened serious consequences. The western frontier of the state was still in danger from incursions of Indians and Canadians, and the state continued to maintain troops along that border. But negotiations were in progress for

a permanent peace, and the people looked forward eagerly and hopefully for better times.

The annual town meeting in 1782 voted eighty pounds for Rev. Mr. Hall's salary, and "one Hundred and Fifty Pounds for mending the Highways to be paid in Labour allowing to Each man four pence p^{r} hour for Every hours faithfull Labour and Two pence p^{r} hour for Each yoke of oxen and for other Utensils the price common among Neighbours." The paper currency had become so nearly worthless that the people had gone back to specie in their reckoning of values, although there was very little of it in the country. Fifty pounds was voted for schools and a bounty of forty shillings for every grown wolf "killed within this or any of the circumjacent towns and twenty shillings for a Wolfs whelp as aforesaid."

April 16, the town chose Ichabod Fisher, Capt. Josiah Richardson, Thomas Baker, Esq., Dea. Daniel Kingsbury and Lieut. Dan Guild a committee "to make an account of the Service Each man has Done in the present war and make an avaridge so that Each man may have credit for what he has already done in said Service, and also Divide or class the Inhabitance of said Town into Twelve Equal classes (credit for what Each man has Done to be given him) and Each class to provide or hire a man for the Space of three years or During the war upon their own cost (said classes to be so made that Each class pay Equal Taxes)." Four of the classes furnished men—Caleb Fitch, Levi Goodenough, Moses M. Howe and Archelaus Temple—who were mustered by Capt. Benjamin Ellis. It is not known whether more than one of them, Levi Goodenough, were residents of the town. The town had now advanced £135 9^{s} 5^{d} to her soldiers in the Continental army, which sum was afterwards allowed on her account for depreciation.

The plan of government was again discussed, and a new draft sent out by the convention was acted on in November, but all those first drafts were killed, with amendments proposed by the towns.

The legislature met at Concord in June. About 500 Indians, Iroquois, Ottawas and Chippewas, had appeared

at Chamblee on the St. John river, with the intention of making incursions into New York and New England. Two companies of fifty men each were ordered to be raised and sent forward immediately, to reinforce the troops already on the upper Connecticut for the protection of the northwestern frontier. Col. Ellis was called upon for one captain and fourteen men from his regiment, and he sent Capt. Jonathan Smith of Surry. Elijah Blake and Abijah Hall—son of Jesse Hall, twenty-two years old—both of Keene, enlisted in that company. The Indians were dissuaded by Sir Guy Carleton, then in command of the British forces in America, from making raids; and this was the last menace of the enemy in the war of the Revolution.

A town meeting, on the 13th of September, 1782, chose Nathan Blake, Jr., Abijah Wilder and Elisha Briggs a committee "to oversee the Business of Building the Rev^{d} Mr. Hall's house and to agree with proper workmen for Carrying on the Same." The house, two stories high, fronting on Pleasant street, with an L running north, and a barn beyond, was built on the lot now occupied by the Keene Public Library. It stood a little nearer the street and a little farther east than the present edifice,[1] and had a large garden on the west which was highly and artistically cultivated by Mr. Hall, and after his death by Judge Joel Parker.

A town meeting on the 5th of November re-elected Dea. Daniel Kingsbury representative and chose Lieut. Benjamin Hall, Daniel Newcomb, Esq., and Thomas Baker, Esq., a committee "to give Instructions to said Representative."

Although the state had confiscated the real estate of obnoxious tories for its own benefit—in the cause of the patriots—it permitted the towns in which the property lay to tax it, the sums assessed being paid out of the state treasury or allowed in the settlement of the accounts of those towns, for state taxes, or for money raised to hire Continental soldiers. Certificates of the payment of

[1] The lot was bought in 1864, by Henry Colony, of Julia E. Hall, a granddaughter of Rev. Aaron. In 1869 Mr. Colony built his house—now occupied by the public library—and to give place for it, the main part of the old parsonage was taken down but the L was removed by John Ahern, and is now the L of his present residence, 63 Castle street. The timbers of the main part were also used in the construction of his dwelling.

those taxes by the state, which continued for several years, may be found in New Hampshire State Papers, vol. 12, pages 320-2. There were two assessments in Keene in 1782, one for the state tax, the assessment being on

	£	s	d
"Elijah Williams' land	1..	8..	9
Josiah Pomeroy's land	10..	14..	1½;"

and one "for raising continental men * * *

	£	s	d
Elijah Williams' land	1..	10..	10
Josiah Pomeroy's land	11..	10..	9

"The above are true extracts from the Original assessments Attest Ichabod Fisher, Reuben Partridge } assessors for the year 1782.

"Feb. ye 4th 1785—

R^d^ an order on the Treas^ry^ in behalf of the Selectmen for the Above Benjamin Hall"

The resignation of Timothy Ellis as colonel of the militia regiment in this part of the county was accepted by the legislature in February.

The annual town meeting in 1783 voted sixty pounds for schools, the districts to "provide their own masters and regulate their own affairs."

Peace having been declared, and the independence of the United States acknowledged, on the 19th of April—the eighth anniversary of the beginning of the war at Lexington—Washington issued a proclamation to the army announcing the cessation of hostilities. The troops were dismissed on furlough, but were not disbanded till October.

Upon the recommendation of congress, the several states "set apart the second Thursday in December as a day of public Thanksgiving;" and the day was religiously observed throughout the country.

Keene had furnished 225[1] enlistments for the war—217 of them by 134 citizens of the town, some volunteering more than once; and eight men hired from out of town.

A town meeting, June 19, 1783, "Voted unanimously that the Representative be instructed to Use his Influence that all absentees who have absented themselves from any

[1] Probably these figures are too small, for the names of some volunteers were never entered on the rolls—as was the case with the Nelsons, father and son—and many rolls have been destroyed.

of the United States of America and Joined with or put themselves under the protection of the Enemies of the United States of America be utterly Debared from Residing within this state."

In October a petition was presented to the legislature by the "Gaoler" and others of Keene who "humbly shew that they conceive it would be very beneficial not only to the Public but to the Town of Keene in general, and the Poor Prisoners in Gaol here in particular, that ye Limits of the Yard of the Prison here might be extended beyond what it now is by law, sixty feet, so as to take in a Barn and Shop that would be very convenient for them to labour in and thereby Earn something for their Support during their being obliged to remain in said Gaol until they can sware out; * * * * And as in duty bound will ever pray

Dan Guild, Gaoler	Abner Sanger
Thos Baker	Nathan Blake jur
N: Cooke	Thomas Field
Benja Hall	Israel Houghton"
Jer Stiles	

We also find the following:

"State of New Hampshire: In Committee of Safety, Exeter, Novr 21, 1783.

"Pursuant to an order of the General Court, the Excise on Spirituous Liquors will be farmed at Public Vendue for the term of one year from the first day of October last by Committees appointed for that purpose, and at the times and places hereafter mentioned, viz.

* * * * *

"For the County of Cheshire at the House of Mr. Aaron Eames,[1] Innholder in Keene, on Thursday the 22d day of January next at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. * * * *

M. Weare, Presid^t^.

"By order of the Com^tee^"

The committee for the sale of said excise in Keene was "Mr. Daniel Kingsbury & Capt. Josiah Richardson or either of them for Cheshire."

In the distress of the times a convention met at Peterboro, in October, to consult upon grievances with a view

[1] Aaron Eames was keeping the Ralston tavern in 1786. (Deed to Wm. Todd, grantee.)

to laying them before the legislature, and Major Davis Howlett was sent as a delegate from Keene; but nothing came of that movement. On the 31st of October, the state convention at Concord adopted a constitution which was accepted by the people and became the fundamental law of the state.

The number of ratable polls in town this year, as returned by the selectmen to the general assembly in December, was 228.

CHAPTER X.

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GRANTS.

1741—1782.

When the south boundary line of New Hampshire was established, in 1741, it was supposed that that line extended the same distance west as the north line of Massachusetts, and New Hampshire claimed what is now Vermont as a part of her territory. In 1749, Gov. Benning Wentworth granted the town of Bennington, naming it for himself, and not long afterwards he granted other townships, as his commission from the king authorized and commanded him to do. After the last French and Indian war, 1755–1760, the demand for those lands was so great that, in 1764, he had granted 138 townships west of the Connecticut river; and that territory was called the New Hampshire Grants.

But New York also claimed that territory, and its governor issued grants to its lands, in many cases the same that Gov. Wentworth had granted. In 1764, upon an appeal to the king, the west bank of the Connecticut river was declared to be the boundary line between New York and New Hampshire. But the language of the decree was slightly ambiguous, and Gov. Wentworth and his grantees claimed that his grants were legal, and that the titles of those grantees to the lands were still valid; while the New Yorkers claimed that they were illegal and void. The controversy became a very lively and serious one. New York sheriffs were sent to dispossess the New Hampshire settlers —in some cases the New York grantees drove them off and burned their log-cabins—but those settlers banded together, appointed committees of safety, formed a corps of "Green Mountain Boys" under energetic officers, with Ethan Allen for their colonel, and resolutely determined to defend their rights. The leaders were indicted by the New York courts, but the officers sent to arrest them were seized by the

people and chastised with switches. Those Green Mountain Boys were afterwards patriots in the Revolution, and did effective service, while the New York claimants were mostly tories.

The authorities of New York attempted to hold the king's court at Westminster, on the 13th of March, 1775. As the day approached the excitement became intense. The inhabitants of the vicinity assembled and took possession of the courthouse, but without firearms. The sheriff appeared at the head of a body of armed tories, demanded admission and ordered the people to disperse; but he failed to enforce his orders and retired with his posse to the Royal Tavern in the village. The whigs also retired for the night, leaving a guard in the courthouse, though still without firearms. Just before midnight the sheriff and his party again appeared at the courthouse and demanded possession; but were again refused. They then broke in the door, and opened fire on the guard, wounding ten men. two of whom, William French of Brattleboro, and Daniel Houghton of Dummerston, died of their wounds; claimed to have been the first blood shed in the war of the Revolution.

News of the outrage spread rapidly, and soon after noon 500 men were on the ground, about one-half of them from New Hampshire. The Westminster company of militia turned out in full force. One company from Walpole was commanded by Capt. Benjamin Bellows, afterwards a colonel of Revolutionary fame, who did much to calm the excited crowd. Two of the judges, the clerk and the sheriff were sent to jail at Northampton to be held for trial. A convention of delegates from the towns was held at Westminster on the 11th of April with a view to a more completely organized resistance to the authority of New York; but the affair of Lexington and Concord, quickly followed by the capture of Ticonderoga by Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys, the battle of Bunker Hill and other exciting events of a more general character, diverted attention from merely local affairs.

But the New Hampshire grantees, while resisting the authority of New York, felt the need of civil government

and the protection of laws administered by the courts; and a convention was held at Dorset, in July, 1776—adjourned from time to time—with a view to forming a separate state government. At its last session, in 1777, that convention resolved unanimously that the district of territory "usually known by the name and description of the New Hampshire Grants, of right ought to be, and is hereby declared forever hereafter to be, a free and independent jurisdiction, or state; to be forever hereafter called, known and distinguished by the name of New Connecticut,[1] alias Vermont;"[2] and petitioned congress for admission to the Union.

During all these years, civil affairs in New Hampshire were in a confused state; the courts were suspended and there was no administration of justice. The inhabitants of some of the towns on the east side of the Connecticut, at that time considered quite remote from the centre of political power in New Hampshire, became dissatisfied and proposed to join the new state, the central power of which would be in the Connecticut valley. It was claimed by many that the west line of New Hampshire was that of the original grant to Capt. John Mason, in 1629. That grant was described as extending sixty miles from the sea, and the western boundary was thus made a curved line which has since been known as the "Masonian line," or the "Patent line" of New Hampshire, (already described in chapter 3.) That line extended, left the greater part of Grafton county outside of New Hampshire. Hanover and several other towns in that vicinity had refused to send delegates to the convention for forming a government in New Hampshire, in December, 1775. In July, 1776, a convention of delegates from eleven towns in that vicinity had held a convention in College Hall, Dresden, now Hanover, with a view to setting up a separate state government in the Connecticut valley. President Wheelock and some others of the leading men connected with Dartmouth college had come from Connecticut, and the trustees and faculty hoped to make that institution the centre of political

[1] The settlers of the "Grants" were largely from Connecticut, as were many of those in the towns east of the river.

[2] Thompson's History of Vermont and Hall's History of Eastern Vermont.

power in northern New England, with Hanover for the capital of the "New Connecticut." All the Grafton, and several of the Cheshire county towns, refused to send representatives to the new assembly which met at Exeter, on the 18th of December, 1776. More than forty towns were thus detached from the Exeter government. Keene was divided in sentiment on the question, and at the town meeting, December 8, to choose a representative to that assembly, Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, Capt. Davis Howlett and Mr. Jabez Fisher were successively chosen, but all declined to serve—doubtless because they were favorable to the new state—and Major Timothy Ellis was elected; and Major Ellis was appointed on a special committee to consider the grievances and complaints of "sundry towns and people in the county of Grafton & any other towns."

But Burgoyne's invasion in the spring of 1777 drew the attention of all and caused great alarm and anxiety throughout this part of the country. The settlers of the Grants called lustily upon New Hampshire for aid, and the people united heartily in the common defence. But, Burgoyne and his army disposed of, the political quarrel burst out afresh.

When the legislature of the new state—which had adopted the name of Vermont, but had not been admitted to the Union—met for the first time at Windsor, on the 12th of March, 1778, sixteen towns on the east side of the river asked to be admitted to that state, and they were received. Public opinion in Cheshire county was divided and a convention of delegates from several of the towns had met at Surry in January, to discuss the situation. Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, Major Timothy Ellis and Capt. Isaac Griswold were the delegates from Keene. No record of the proceedings of that convention has been found. Professor Bezaleel Woodward, of Dartmouth college, was elected clerk of the new house of representatives, President Wheelock was made a justice of the peace, and the "College party," as it was called, was strong enough to carry through a resolution declaring it to be the right of the Grants west of the Mason line to unite under one state government. But upon a recurrence of that question

at the next session a majority voted against proceeding farther with that union. The New Hampshire members then withdrew, followed by the lieutenant governor, two councilmen and fifteen members of the house from the west side of the river, representing towns in the vicinity of Dartmouth college. They called a convention, inviting the towns on both sides of the river to join them, with the view of forming a state in the Connecticut valley, to be called New Connecticut.

That convention met at Cornish, on the 9th of December, 1778. Keene was invited but declined to send delegates. Overtures were made to New Hampshire to unite with the contemplated new state, but the scheme of the college party for their own aggrandizement was evident, and President Weare and other leaders in New Hampshire were active in their efforts to counteract this secession.

A majority of the people of Keene continued loyal to New Hampshire, and, at the annual meeting in March, 1779, the town "Voted that the Selectmen be a committee to give the Representative Instructions to use his Influence that the Delegates belonging to this State who are members of the Continental congress Lay claim to the New Hampshire Grants So called on the West side of Coneticutt River; Provided that Congress will not confirm the same into a New State." A committee of the Exeter legislature reported on the 2d of April that "New Hampshire should lay claim to jurisdiction over the whole of the Grants." New York still claimed all the territory west of the river, and there were many loyalists, New York grantees and others, who supported her claims. A convention of the New York party was held at Brattleboro on the 4th of May, 1779, which adopted resolutions entreating Gov. Clinton to "protect the loyal subjects in that part of the state."

A convention at Dartmouth college on the 30th of August, anticipating the formation of their state of New Connecticut, planned an expedition into Canada, and petitioned congress to order such a movement. Fifteen hundred men, 500 horses, 100 teams, 10,000 bushels of

wheat, and other supplies in abundance were promised from the patriots of the Grants between the Green Mountains and the Mason line.

The people of the Grants had reached a state of chronic alarm and uncertainty. Without civil government, constantly harassed with the fear of invasion by the British from Canada and raids by the Indians, they were ready to adopt any democratic republican government that would give them protection. A majority of those in the western part of New Hampshire at this time preferred a union with Vermont. Those in Cheshire county who held to that opinion called a convention of delegates from the several towns, at Walpole, on the 15th of November, 1780. Daniel Newcomb, Esq., and Capt. John Houghton were the delegates from Keene. Col. Benjamin Bellows of Walpole was chosen president, and Daniel Newcomb of Keene, clerk of the convention. Col. Bellows, Col. Samuel Hunt of Charlestown, Capt. Lemuel Holmes of Surry, Daniel Jones, Esq., of Hinsdale, and Dr. William Page of Charlestown were appointed a committee to report the sentiments of the convention. Their report,[1] which was adopted by the convention, and printed and distributed in the towns, was an argument in favor of a union of the grants; and a recommendation that a convention of delegates from all the towns in the grants, on both sides of the river, be held at Charlestown, on the 16th of January, following, for the purpose of adopting measures for such union. Forty-three towns accepted the invitation and sent delegates, twelve of whom were members of the New Hampshire legislature. Keene sent Col. Timothy Ellis and Daniel Newcomb, Esq., and "Voted to Instruct the Delegates to come into a Union with said Grants in case they (the said Grants) be annexed to the State of New Hampshire and not Otherwise."

Each party in interest made strenuous efforts to control that convention, and New Hampshire was threatened with the loss of two-thirds of its territory. New York sent emissaries to advocate the New Connecticut scheme, hoping, as a final result, to secure the territory west of the

[1] The full text of that report is given in the State Papers of both New Hampshire and Vermont; and also in the Annals of Keene, page 58.

river. The governor and council of Vermont sent Ira Allen, a younger brother of Ethan, an able man and an adroit politician, to act for that state.

The convention met as called, and appointed a committee to prepare business for its consideration. On the 18th, that committee reported in favor of uniting all the grants to New Hampshire. The report was adopted by a large majority. The New Hampshire partisans were elated and hilarious over their success. But Allen arrived on the scene during the day, and he and his friends spent the night among the delegates. The result was that the next morning the vote was reconsidered and reversed, the convention voting almost unanimously to unite all the grants west of the Mason line to Vermont. Eleven delegates, including the two from Keene, entered a written protest against that action.

A committee was appointed to confer with the authorities of Vermont, and the convention adjourned to meet at Cornish, on the 8th of February—the day set for the meeting of the Vermont legislature at Windsor, on the opposite bank of the river from Cornish. On the 14th of February the Vermont legislature passed a resolution in favor of the union, and a committee conferred with the convention then sitting at Cornish. The question was again referred to the towns and thirty-five towns in New Hampshire and thirty-six in Vermont, a large majority of those acting, voted in favor of the union; and representatives from the thirty-five New Hampshire towns crossed the river and took seats in the Vermont legislature. Richmond, then one of the largest towns and sending two representatives, voted unanimously in favor of the union; and Chesterfield and some other towns were nearly unanimous on the same side. All the towns in Cheshire county west of the Mason line, except Keene, Swanzey and Winchester, joined the union. The vote of Keene, taken at a legal meeting on the 26th of March, 1781, stood twenty-nine in favor and fifty-eight against the union.

But Vermont claimed jurisdiction over all the towns in question whether they voluntarily joined or not, as appears by the following warrant, copied from the State Papers.

"State of Vermont

In general Assembly windsor Aprill 7th 1781.

"to either of the constables of the town of keen in the county of Cheshire greeting—Where as by a late union of the whole of the New Hampshire grants with the state of vermont * * * * * these are therefore to direct you upon sight hereof to warn all the freeholders and other inhabitants in sd town of keen that have a right by law to vote to assemble at the usual place for holding town meetings in sd town as soon as may bee and that you then and their call upon them to bring in their votes successivelly for two representatives of Said town to take their seats forthwith in this hous as law directs that you make declartion of the persons chosen and return the same to this Assembly

excrats from the Journalls
by order of assembly
Noah hopkins Clark."

Under this warrant, an election must have been held, and the veteran Col. Isaac Wyman, and Mr. Ezra Stiles were chosen representatives, notwithstanding the vote in March, as their names appear as members in the proceedings of that Vermont legislature. But no record of that town meeting, or of the warrant, appears on the town books. Evidently there was a bitter feud in Keene on this question, as there was in most of the towns, and when allegiance to New Hampshire was resumed in full, nearly all records concerning the connection of the town with Vermont were doubtless expunged, if any had been made.

The legislature of the new state divided the New Hampshire portion into the four probate districts of Keene, Claremont, Dresden and Haverhill, and established the new Vermont counties of Washington and Orange, corresponding to those of Cheshire and Grafton.

The harassing condition of affairs at this time may be seen from the following letter of Col. Timothy Ellis to the committee of safety of New Hampshire:

"Keene, Augt 7, 1781.

"Gentlemen—

I am informed that you have rec'd some late intelligence from Gen. Sullivan respecting the New Hampshire Grants—if it is anything favorable to the friends of N. Hampshire, I wish it may be published & sent to us by the next Post: for we are in a very distressing situation,

and need every possible Encouragement & assistance to enable us to support the Rights of N. Hampshire against the rapacious claim of Vermont. They have, by a Resolve of their General Court appointed and authorized a Committee to take the Records of the Court of Common pleas in this County and have order'd the Clerk to deliver them up for the use of (what they call) the County of Washington. They have laid a Tax of 10 / (ten shillings) silver money upon every hundred acres of our Land, and are making hasty Preparations to collect it. They have Commissioned Judges for their County Court, which is to be held in Keene the 14th day of August inst. and I suppose will proceed to do Business under Vermont, unless prevented by New Hampshire. In this critical Juncture, I have to ask your advice & Direction, and hope you will bear us in mind, and not forsake us in our Distress.

I am Gentlemen, with much Respect
Your humble servant
Timothy Ellis."

Delegates from the towns of Keene, Swanzey, Richmond, Winchester, Chesterfield, Westmoreland, Walpole, Surry, Gilsum and Alstead met at Keene on the 21st of September to consider the political situation, and appointed a committee to lay the case of Cheshire county before the committee of safety. Similar action was taken by parties in Grafton county, where complaints were made of outrages committed by the partisans of Vermont; and orders were issued to Col. Charles Johnson, commanding a battalion of troops on the northwest border of the state, to preserve the peace.

The next session of the legislature of the new state was held at Charlestown, N. H., beginning October 11, nearly all the towns west of the Mason line being represented. Col. Wyman, of Keene, was one of the most distinguished members, and Mr. Stiles was appointed one of nine commissioners to adjust the boundary line between the new state and New Hampshire. Peleg Sprague, afterwards a citizen of Keene and member of congress, represented Acworth.

There was excitement when it was learned that the legislature of the new state was to hold its session on New Hampshire soil. On the 20th of September the New Hampshire committee of safety sent an express to Lt. Col.

Reynolds (or Runnells) at Springfield, Mass., who was there with his New Hampshire regiment on his way to reinforce Washington's army, to march at once to Charlestown. The excitement was not allayed when, a few days later, that regiment received a supply of ammunition.

But it was soon learned that congress would receive Vermont into the Union provided she would give up her connection with the New Hampshire towns and those she had also annexed from New York. This cooled the ardor of the ninety-one members from the towns west of the river, and left the forty-six from those on the east side in a helpless minority; and yet the latter, dominated by the "College party," voted to stand by their new organization.

The civil authorities of New Hampshire and Vermont now began to come in conflict. Cheshire county, N. H., and Washington county, Vt., covered the same territory. Each had its courts, sheriffs and constables, and the clashing began to be serious.

In November, 1781, Nathaniel Bingham and John Grandy, Jr., of Chesterfield, were arrested by Isaac Griswold, of Keene, a deputy sheriff, upon a warrant issued by Samuel King, of Chesterfield, a justice of the peace, both officers of Vermont, for resistance to a constable of that state, and committed to jail at Charlestown. They petitioned the legislature of New Hampshire for relief, and on the 28th, an act was passed authorizing the committee of safety "to issue their Order to the Sheriff of the County of Cheshire to release from Prison all persons confined * * * * * by order Process or Authority of any pretended Court, Magistrate, Officers or other Persons claiming Authority from the said state of Vermont, and to apprehend the persons who heretofore have exercised * * * * Power or Authority within the said counties of Cheshire or Grafton from, by or under the said pretended Authority of Vermont, and to convey said Offenders to the common Gaol in the County of Rockingham." And the committee of safety was empowered to raise a force, civil or military, sufficient to execute the order.

Col. Enoch Hale, of Rindge, sheriff of Cheshire county, attempted to execute the order, but without sufficient

force, and was himself arrested, for attempting to break into the jail, by the same Vermont deputy who had made the first arrest—Capt. Isaac Griswold of Keene—upon a mittimus issued by Benj. Giles of Newport, Nathaniel S. Prentice of Alstead, and Elijah Bingham, "pretended" justices of the "pretended State of Vermont," and committed to jail at Charlestown. Sheriff Hale at once applied to Dr. William Page, of Charlestown, the "pretended" sheriff of Washington county, for release on parole for the purpose of consulting Gen. Bellows at Walpole, with a view to raising the militia of Cheshire county, and the release was very courteously granted. Gen. Bellows did not deem it advisable to call out the troops, but forwarded Col. Hale's appeal by express to President Weare, at Exeter; and Col. Hale himself returned to his quarters in the jail. He was allowed the liberty of the "yard," which covered the village of Charlestown. Gen. Bellows also reported to President Weare, that the officers of Vermont were determined to maintain their authority, and could raise "six hundred men at short notice who will resolutely dispute the ground Inch by Inch;" and advised that troops be raised from without the county—evidently feeling that Cheshire county men could not be relied upon, as the people were about equally divided in sentiment—and that the supremacy of the state be established.

The committee of safety met on the 4th of December, and the next day issued orders to Brigadier Generals Nichols of Amherst and Bellows of Walpole to furnish troops from their commands for the relief of Sheriff Hale. Gen. Francis Blood of Temple, state commissary in the army, was ordered to furnish the troops with supplies.

The "pretended" sheriff of "Washington county," Dr. Page, appealed to the military authorities of Vermont for troops, and four regiments were at once put under orders for immediate movement. Two of the regiments were in "Washington county" commanded by Colonels Samuel King of Chesterfield—whose warrant as justice of the peace had caused this excitement—and Wm. Heywood of Charlestown; and the men of those regiments were citizens of New Hampshire.

Gov. Chittenden wrote his major general of militia, Elijah Payne of Lebanon, lieutenant governor of the pretended state of Vermont: "After having consulted matters, if need be you are directed to call on any or all of the Militia of this State to the Eastward of the Range of Green Mountains to your Assistance, and assist the Sheriff in carrying into Execution the Laws of this State, and to defend its citizens against any insult, and provided New Hampshire make an attack with an armed force you are hereby ordered to Repel force by force." He was also directed to use every means "to prevent the effusion of blood." All the militia east of the mountains were put in readiness to move at once, fully armed and supplied.

Col. Ira Allen was despatched to Exeter with copies of the governor's letter and orders, with full power to concert measures for an amicable adjustment of all the difficulties with New Hampshire. Brig. Gen. Roger Enos and Dr. Wm. Page were also sent to Exeter to aid Col. Allen in his efforts for peace. On their arrival, Dr. Page was brought before a committee of the house for examination, which resulted in his being arrested and committed to jail. Nathaniel S. Prentice was also arrested and lodged in the same jail. The committee of safety had also ordered the arrest of Benj. Giles, of Newport, Col. Samuel King and Moses Smith of Chesterfield, and Capt. Isaac Griswold, of Keene, and all the powers of the state, civil and military, were required to aid if necessary. Giles was arrested, but was rescued by his partisans. Smith and Griswold could not be found. Col. King was arrested and brought as far as Keene, on the way to Exeter, but six of his captains, Fairbanks, Davis, Pratt, Pomeroy and Harvey, of Chesterfield, and Carlisle, of Westmoreland, raised a force of their men, overtook the sheriff's party here and rescued the prisoner.

Thereupon the sheriff issued the following advertisements:

"Four Hundred Dollars Reward To Any Person or Persons that Brings Samuel King of Chesterfield to Exiter in the State of Newhampshier & there Confine Him in Gaol, or Have Him the said King Before the Committee of Safety of s^{d} State; As said Saml King was taken Prisoner By

Vertue of a Warrant to the Subscriber Derected & Conducted under a Proper Guard Twenty Miles, s^d^ King at the Town of Keen By a Number of Men Armed w^h^ Clubs, Sword & Staves w^h^ Captains Farebanks, Davis, Pratt, Pomeroy & Harvey of Chesterfield at their Head & Capt Carlil of Westmoreland w^h^ a Small Partie which Parties on the Morning of the first Day of Jan. 1782 By Violance Ressque the said Samuel King Prisoner from

Robert Smith, Special Sherif."

"Mr. Ephraim Witherell—S^r^ if Possable Aprehend the Bodies of Isaac Grisold & Mosas Smith & them Bring Before the Committee of Safety at Exeter & you shall Have an Adequit Reward from

Robt Smith } Special
Jonathan Martin } Shirivs."

"A Copie"

The same parties that rescued King at Keene returned to Chesterfield that evening, Jan. 1, 1782, and after the usual refreshment at King's house, after their long, cold ride, went to the houses of those who were friendly to New Hampshire, maltreated them, and drove some families from their homes on that severe winter night. At midnight Capt. Joseph Burt of Westmoreland, to whom some of the victims had fled, wrote to President Weare, giving an account of the behavior of the mob. He closed his letter thus:

"N. B. You will Excuse the wrighting Being Calld out of Bed in a Coald Night."

The next day, Gen. Bellows wrote from Walpole a similar account of the same mob, stating, among other things, that "Upon the return of the Mob, after proper refreshment at said Kings they sought for all those Persons, who were any way concerned in assisting the aforesaid officer, some of which they got into their hands and have abused in a shameful and barbarous manner by Striking, Kicking, and all the indignities which such a Hellish pack can be Guilty of, obliging them to promise and engage never to appear against the new State again; and this is not all; they sware they will extirpate all the adherents to New Hampshire, threatening to Kill, Burn and Distroy the Persons and Properties of all who oppose them;" etc.

On the 8th of January, the legislature ordered that an

armed force of 1,000 men, including officers, be immediately raised and sent into the western part of the state "for the defence and protection of the Inhabitants there, and to enable the civil officers to exercise their authority in that Quarter." The men were to be raised by draft, chiefly from the eastern parts of the state, to be organized in two regiments, and the committee of safety expected Cheshire county to furnish 100,000 pounds of beef for the commissary department.

On the 11th of May, Gen. Sullivan was appointed to command those forces. The situation had become very grave; but more moderate counsels prevailed, and the necessity for calling out the troops was avoided.

In December, Gov. Chittenden had written Gen. Washington, stating the condition of affairs in Vermont. Gen. Washington replied on the 1st of January, saying that Vermont had only to confine herself within her own original limits, laying no claim to the territory of other states, to insure the acknowledgment of her independence, a resolution looking to such action having already passed congress. Knowledge of that communication soon reached Exeter, supported by other communications of like import from members of congress and others, and the trend of events turned towards a peaceful solution of the difficulties. Both sheriffs were set at liberty, Col. Hale by the Vermont government, and Dr. Page by that of New Hampshire.

But the determination of the authorities to settle peacefully was not yet generally known, and a few days after his release Sheriff Hale arrested Benjamin Giles and took him to Charlestown for commitment, but Giles' friends of the other party rallied and rescued him. With a pretended Vermont deputy they arrested Hale and threatened to commit him to the jail at Bennington. Instead of that, however, they took him in a ludicrous way to Walpole and set him at liberty. From there he wrote a report of what had taken place to President Weare, and proceeded on his way to his home in Rindge.

On the 11th of February, 1782, Gov. Chittenden laid the letter of Gen. Washington before the Vermont legislature,

then in session at Bennington. It was considered in committee of the whole, which reported that the resolution of congress, guaranteeing to the states of New York and New Hampshire certain limits, had determined the boundaries of Vermont. That report was accepted and adopted by the house; and on motion of Mr. Ezra Stiles, of Keene, it was then resolved "that this House do judge the Articles of Union (between the New Hampshire towns and Vermont) completely dissolved."

Thus ended a long controversy concerning the New Hampshire Grants—a controversy into which Keene was unavoidably drawn, and in which she bore no inconspicuous part—and the towns on the east side of the Connecticut returned to their allegiance to New Hampshire. But for a long time the fires of that feud smouldered, and the passions it had roused rankled in the breasts of the active men in both parties. Some cases growing out of it had been entered in the courts and still remained to be adjudicated.

"In September, when the Inferior Court acting under the authority of New Hampshire assembled at Keene, a mob, headed by Capt. Samuel Davis of Chesterfield, and composed of persons favorable to a union with Vermont, assembled for the purpose of preventing the court from transacting business. As disturbances were expected, a large number of the opposite party came into the village. At the opening of the court, Davis, followed by his party, entered the courthouse, went up to the clerk, laid his hand upon the docket, and declared it should not be opened. At this moment, a Mr. Fairbanks of Swanzey addressed the court, praying them to adjourn for an hour, that the people present might assemble on the common, and the strength of both parties be ascertained. The court adjourned; the two parties paraded separately, Davis at the head of one, and Fairbanks of the other. The former being much the smaller, their courage failed, and the court proceeded in their business without further molestation.

"Davis and several others were arrested, by a warrant from the court, and gave bonds to appear at the next term of the Superior Court, and to keep the peace. He then went out and addressed his followers, advising them to be cool and orderly, as the most likely mode of obtaining their object. When the Superior Court assembled, an attempt was also made to prevent it from proceeding to

business, which entirely failed. Davis and two others were indicted, 'for that they, with others, committed an assault upon the Justices of the Inferior Court and their clerk, and compelled them to desist from executing the lawful business thereof.' They pleaded guilty, and threw themselves upon the mercy of the court, who, 'having taken matters into consideration, forgave them, and ordered them to be discharged.' At the same term, Robert Wier was indicted, for that he, at said time, at Keene, to encourage the rioters, did openly and publicly, with a loud voice, in the English language, speak the following words, viz:—'Col. Ashley (meaning the first Justice of said Inferior Court) is for arbitrary power, and arbitrary power he shall have; damn the Court and their authority.' He also pleaded guilty, was forgiven and discharged."

(Annals, page 64.)

It was the custom at that time for the judges and officers of the higher courts to travel from one shire town to another on horseback, carrying their documents in their capacious saddlebags. Gen. John Sullivan was then attorney general of the state. In October of this year, 1782, as the judges, accompanied by Sullivan, approached Keene to hold a term of the superior court, at which were to be tried some of the cases referred to above, they were informed that the town was full of people determined to compel them to adjourn without trying any cases. The cavalcade halted in a small wood for consultation. Sullivan had his servant with him, carrying his portmanteau, which contained his major general's uniform. He put it on, mounted his powerful grey horse and conducted the court into town. Some of the inhabitants who were loyal to New Hampshire came out on horseback to meet them, and he ordered them to form in double file in rear of the court. Arthur Livermore, then a youth of sixteen, acted as his volunteer aid.

The courthouse was surrounded by a crowd of men, some of them armed. They gave way as the court entered, but were sullen, and determined not to allow the transaction of business. The judges took their seats, the court was opened in due form, and the crowd rushed in and filled the house.

Sullivan was a man of fine personal appearance, dignified and commanding, and he stood by the clerk's desk,

calmly but resolutely surveying the crowd, recognizing here and there an officer or soldier who had fought under him and returning their salutes. Then, with the greatest composure, he took off his cocked hat and laid it on the table, unbuckled his sword and laid it beside the hat. There was a stir in the crowd and he quickly buckled on his sword and half drew the blade. Then he deliberately replaced it on the table. He then addressed the assembly, rebuking them for attempting to interfere with the proceedings of the court. A cry arose: "The petition! The petition!" and a committee stepped forward with a huge roll. Sullivan told them that if they had anything to offer the court he would lay it before them. He took the petition, looked it over and presented it to the court, recommending it to their honors' careful consideration, and it was read by the clerk. He then directed the crowd to withdraw. Some hesitancy on their part drew forth a stern command, which was reluctantly obeyed. The next morning, the court opened with the house full of people. Sullivan, now in citizen's dress, in a graceful and dignified speech, told them that the court, finding they could not go through the heavy civil docket in the time allowed for this county, would continue all cases in which either party was not ready for trial. This announcement satisfied them, and they withdrew with shouts of "Hurrah for Gen. Sullivan."

In effect the mob thus carried their point—that of postponing the transaction of business—and doubtless the presence of the attorney general prevented violence and preserved the dignity of the court. Young Livermore said afterwards: "I thought if I could only look and talk like that man I should want nothing higher or better in this world."[1]

[1] From T. C. Amory's Life of Gen. Sullivan. The story as told by Daniel Webster was taken from the Life of Governor Plumer, McClintock's History of New Hampshire, page 409.

CHAPTER XI.

TOWN AFFAIRS.

1784—1800.

Under the temporary state constitution for carrying on the war, 1776 to 1784, Meshech Weare had been elected president each year, and at the annual election under the new constitution in 1784, he was chosen "President" of New Hampshire; but Keene cast sixty-two votes out of sixty-five for John Langdon.

The town "voted to Let out the Brickyard to the highest Bidder;" and to "build a Bridge over the East Branch on the Road Leading from Joseph Willsons to malborough provided that the owners of the Land Living on said Road will be at the charge of and make the Road good from the End of Beach Hill to said Branch by raising a Dam or Casway on said Road so as to make it passable in high water so as to confine the water to the channel so that the Road be not Damaged thereby." This was the bridge which the selectmen had petitioned for a lottery to build, six years before.

In a vote at this meeting to redistrict the schools, mention is made of "East Beach Hill;" "West Beach Hill" (Daniel's hill, or West mountain); of "Jesse Clark's mill brook" (Black brook, and White brook conducted into it) supplying the mill lately owned by Joseph Wilson at West Keene; "Adin Holbrook's mill brook" ("White Brook." Ebenezer Robbins succeeded Holbrook in 1795); of John Conoly as living on the Colony homestead, West Keene, and John Swan near him; and "voted also that all the families in the Northeast part of the Town living East of Ferry Brook so called (northeast of the farm since owned by James Wright) be a seperate school District."

"The treaty of peace with Great Britain having secured to the tories the privilege of returning to this country, to collect their debts and settle their affairs, Elijah Williams, Esq., came to Keene, for that purpose, in the beginning

of this year. His appearance here so exasperated the zealous whigs, that they seized him and carried him before Thomas Baker, Esq., a Justice of the Peace. What were the charges against him, or whether any charges were exhibited, has not been ascertained. The Justice, perhaps with a view to protect him from outrage, ordered him to recognize for his appearance at the Court of Sessions, to be held at Charlestown, in April, and committed him to the custody of the sheriff. With this, the populace were not satisfied, and they discovered an intention of assaulting and beating him; but he was surrounded and guarded to his lodgings by the old and the young men who happened to be present.

"The animosity of the whigs, aggravated probably by the arts of those who were indebted to him, was, however, so great, that they determined he should not thus escape their vengeance. On the day before that appointed for the sitting of the court, a party concealed themselves in the pines near Fisher Brook, intending, when he passed with the sheriff, to get him into their power. The sheriff passed without him, relying upon the promise he had made to appear at court the next day. This circumstance excited their suspicions; they came immediately into the street, seized Williams at his lodgings, and, placing him in the midst of them, repaired to a tavern in Ash Swamp. When he arrived there, two bundles of black-beech rods were produced, from which it appeared that a plan had been concerted to compel him to run the gauntlet, with the view, probably, of inducing him, by such harsh treatment, again to leave the country. But by this time, a large number of considerate citizens had assembled and arrived at the tavern. A proposition was made, that the whole subject should be referred to a committee. A committee was appointed; their report was too favorable to Williams, to suit the majority, and was rejected. Another committee was appointed, who reported that he should leave the town the next day, and leave the State the next week. This report was agreed to; but the minority, still dissatisfied, privately sent out messengers, to collect more of their friends. This being communicated to those who were disposed to protect Williams, they advised him to retire immediately. An attempt was made to prevent him from mounting a horse, which had been offered him by a friend. A conflict ensued, in which the horse was overthrown, and several persons were knocked down with clubs. He at length, however, mounted, with the assistance of his friends, and rode through the crowd, which continued to oppose him.

The next day, he repaired to Charlestown, and presented himself to the court, which, thereupon, passed the following order: 'that Elijah Williams, Esq., now in the keeping of Isaac Griswold, by virtue of a mittimus from Thomas Baker, Esq., continue in the custody of the said Isaac, until he shall have transacted the business upon which he came into this part of the country, and then be permitted to leave this State, upon his good behavior, without further molestation.' After settling his affairs, Williams repaired to Nova Scotia. Shortly after, in consequence of ill health, he returned to Deerfield, his native town, died, and was buried by the side of his ancestors."

(Annals, pages 66, 67.)

In May, 1784, the town voted to repair the meeting-house, and chose a committee for that purpose; but on the 23d of November, at a legal meeting petitioned for for that purpose, it "voted to build a New meeting house provided the Town can agree upon ways and means to Defraying the charge of Building and the form and Dimensions of said house." "Leut. Hall Dea. Kingsbury Maj^{r} Howlett Col. Ellis Benja Archer Capt. Stiles David Nims Junr Leut. (Reuben) Partridge and Thos Baker Esqr" were chosen a committee to take the whole matter under consideration and report at the next meeting. The meeting then adjourned for four weeks, and at the adjournment, on the 21st of December, the committee reported: "That the Town build a New meeting House Seventy feet in Length and Fifty feet in Breadth with a Belfry and Steple at one End and a porch at the other agreable to the plan therewith to be exhibited." "That said house stand partly on the spot where the Old Meeting house now stands extending some further north and west." "That the new house above intended be set up as early as may be in the spring of the year A. D. 1786 and finished with all convenient dispatch." "That the Town chuse a Committee of seven judicious men to bargain for and receive materials for said Building, also to procure and agree with skilful persons to undertake and accomplish the labour of erecting and completing the building of said house under the direction of the Town." "That the sum of three hundred pounds be

immediately assessed on the Inhabitants of the Town to be paid in labour and materials for the building, & that the Town be class'd into ten different classes, & that each class procure its proportion for said Building in labour, timber, boards, shingles, clapbords, and stones for underpinning: said materials to be delivered at the spot to the committee appointed to receive them, & that those persons who do not chuse thus to pay it in twelve months after said assessment pay their proportion to their respective constables in money." "That the town impower their last mentioned committee to make sale of the old meeting house to the best advantage and the pews in the new meeting house to be sold at public auction to the highest bidder on the first tuesday of Feby next taking security of the several purchasers, one quarter part made payable in one year from the sale in glass, lime, nails, oil, paint, iron or cash; the remainder on the first day of September 1786, in money or such pay as will answer to pay the workmen; and that none be allowed to bid but such persons as belong to the Town; said pews to be sold by a Committee to be appointed by the Town for that purpose."

The town voted to accept the report "and to proced in the manner & form and the ways & means pointed out by said committe for Building a New meeting house in said town."

"Chose & appointed Lieut Hall, Abijah Wilder, Thomas Baker Esq., Majr Davis Howlet, Dea. Daniel Kingsbury, Benja Archer and Lieut. Partridge the committee mentioned"—the building committee of seven. The same committee was also empowered to sell the old house, and the pews in the new one, as the report recommended.

The same meeting chose "Col Ellis Thos Baker Esq Leut Benja Hall Capt Stiles and Benjamin Balch" a committee "to Look out and provide a proper Spot of Land Where the County Goal may Stand and Report to the Town as soon as may be at this meeting." After an hour's adjournment the committee's report was accepted, which was, "to purchase one acre of Land, one half in the corner of Lieut. Hall's Field and the other half in the corner

of Capt. Richardson's Field, both adjoining the Road and is at or near the place where the Pown (pound) now stands" (near the junction of the present Mechanic and Washington streets). A wooden jail was built there the following season, with its whipping-post in the yard, to which culprits condemned by the court to receive a certain number of lashes were tied, and the lashes laid on. The post was removed early in the next century.

The meeting adjourned to the first Tuesday in February, 1785, when it assembled at the meetinghouse, but immediately adjourned "to the house (tavern) of Mr. Ralston," where the pews in the house to be erected were sold at auction.

The record of the sale is given below:

"PEWS ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE.

	No.	£	s.
Daniel Newcomb, Esq.	15.	18	
Abijah Wilder,	20.	18	10
Daniel Newcomb, Esq.	17.	18	
Benjamin Hall,	18.	18	10
James Wright,	62.	17	
Thomas Baker, Jr.	19.	16	10
Nathan Blake, Jr.	61.	16	10
Abel Blake,	57.	15	10
Isaac Billings,	46.	15	10
Josiah Richardson,	34.	16	
Aaron Emes,	16.	15	
Col. Timothy Ellis,	63.	15	10
Thomas Baker, Esq.	14.	15	
Benjamin Hall, Esq.	47.	14	
Aaron Willson,	24.	14	
Israel Houghton and Elisha Briggs,	25.	14	
Alpheus Nims,	9.	14	
Davis Howlet,	21.	14	
Isaac Blake and Joseph Blake,	27.	14	
Royal Blake,	60.	14	
Thomas Field,	26.	15	
Asa Dunbar, Esq.	35.	14	
Alexander Ralston,	33.	14	
John Swan,	59.	13	10
Luther Emes,	36.	13	10
Jotham Metcalf,	28.	13	10
Daniel Kingsbury,	56.	13	10
Reuben Partridge,	31.	12	10
John Houghton,	30.	12	
Cornelius Sturtevant,	45.	12	
Elijah Dunbar,	10.	12	
Abraham Wheeler, Jun.	3.	11	10
Eliphalet Briggs,	48.	11	
John P. Blake and Andrew Slyfield	29.	10	10
David Nims, Jr.	8.	10	10
William Woods,	11.	11	10
Benjamin Archer,	51.	10	
Benjamin Hall,	49.	10	
Eli Metcalf,	12.	10	10
Benjamin Balch,	50.	10	
Isaac Griswold,	44.	10	
Daniel Newcomb, Esq.	1.	10	10
Ebenezer Day,	55.	10	
Thaddeus Metcalf,	13.	10	
Ephraim Wright,	42.	10	10
David Wilson,	22.	10	10
Joshua Durant,	64.	10	
Eri Richardson,	23.	10	
John Dickson,	43.	10	
Samuel Bassett,	7.	10	
David Foster,	53.	10	
Asahel Blake,	32.	10	
Jesse Clark,	52.	10	
Hananiah Hall and Samuel Osgood,	54.	10	
Josiah Willard,	6.	10	
Josiah Willard,	41.	10	
John Stiles,	4.	10	10
Joseph Brown,	39.	10	
Bartholomew Dwinell and John Stiles,	5.	10	
Daniel Wilson,	38.	10	
Dan Guild,	2.	10	
Simeon Clark,	37.	12	10
Josiah Willard,	40.	10	

PEWS IN THE GALLERY.

	No.	£	*s.*		*No.*	£	*s.*
Thomas Baker, Jr.	13.	9	10	Daniel Kingsbury,	19.	6	05
Stephen Chase,	16.	8	10	Eliphalet Briggs,	21.	6	
Benjamin Kemp,	10.	9	10	Elisha Briggs,	7.	5	10
Timothy Balch and Ebenezer Robbins,	17.	7	10	Nathaniel French,	9.	5	
Elisha Briggs,	15.	7	10	Millet Ellis,	22.	4	10
Eliakim Nims,	11.	7	10	Daniel Newcomb, Esq.	18.	7	
Daniel Newcomb, Esq.	8.	7		Elisha Briggs,	25.	4	05
Elisha Briggs,	12.	6	10	Abijah Wilder,	24.	9	
Benjamin Willis, Jr.	20.	6	15	Reuben Partridge,	5.	4	05
Isaac Billings,	6.	6	15	Thomas Field,	4.	4	10
Elisha Briggs,	14.	6	15	Alexander M'Daniels,	2.	4	05
Asa Ware and Jonas Osgood,	23.	6	10	Eliphalet Briggs,	3.	4	05
				Timothy Balch,	1.	5	

The pews on the floor, (63,) sold for 789 pounds; those in the gallery, (25,) for 60 pounds; the whole number for 849 pounds,—about $3,000."

(Annals, page 69.)

That meeting was kept alive by adjournments, and on the 21st of June, it "voted to set the new meeting house on the Spot where the Committee have laid the foundation any former vote to the contrary notwithstanding." That spot was a short distance north of the site of the old meetinghouse—which had been designated by the town at the meeting in November—adjourned to December 21, as the place for the new one, "extending some further north and west."

"When erected its length was East and West, and it fronted the South, its North side being 70 feet South of its present South end. In 1828, it was moved to where it now stands, on the North side of the common, its front being changed." (Annals, page 70.)

At the annual election, John Langdon was chosen president of the state for the first time, Keene giving him sixty out of sixty-eight votes.

In August, the governor and council appointed Thomas Baker of Keene a special justice of the court of common pleas for Cheshire county, and Luther Eames of Keene, coroner.

Dr. Jacob Pease was one of the physicians in town at this time, and his young wife, Experience, twenty-one years old, daughter of Ichabod Fisher, died on the 4th of July, after the birth of a daughter in June.

A town meeting in January, 1786, Chose Capt. Jeremiah

Stiles, Lieut. Benj. Hall, Capt. John Houghton, Col. Timothy Ellis and Maj. Davis Howlett, a committee to take an account of all the "Services Done by the Town During the Late War that the Same may be sent to the committe on claims in Said State." Many claims of the town against the state had already been adjusted, but no record relating to this final claim has been found.

At the annual meeting in 1786, upon the petition of Joshua Osgood and others living in the northeast part to be set off "from this town to be a distinct Society by themselves in conjunction with some parts of other towns," Benjamin Hall, Jeremiah Stiles and Nathan Blake, Jr., were chosen a committee to consider the petition and report at some future meeting. Notwithstanding the opposition of this and the other towns concerned, the town of Sullivan was incorporated the following year, taking 1,920 acres of land and several families from Keene.

Complying with a requirement of the legislature, the selectmen made the following return:

"Pursuant to the within resolve We the subscribers have taken an account of the Inhabitants of the Town of Keene and find their number to be eleven hundred and twenty two. 1122. May 30th A. D. 1786.

"The number of the Inhabitants on the East side of the river is 614—on the west side of the river there is 508=1122.

Danl Kingsbury } Selectmen
Jeremiah Stiles } of Keene."

May 31, 1786, the town "Voted—to purchase of Captn Richardson ½ acre of land to set the new meeting house on; and that Asa Dunbar, Esqr Baker & Lieut. Balch be a committee for that purpose to agree with Captn Richardson, determine the shape & dimensions of said ½ acre & procure a deed of the same." This was in addition to the site of the old house. On the 20th of June, Capt. Richardson deeded to the "Inhabitants of Keene" * * * "one acre more or less," lying on the east side of his garden, and including that part of the present park which was north of the site of the old meetinghouse. The consideration named in the deed was seventy pounds.

On that spot, its north side about on the north line of

the present park enclosure, the new meetinghouse was built, with form and dimensions as voted by the town, Dec. 21, 1784. The architect and master-carpenter was Benjamin Archer, who had been a sergeant in Capt. Stiles' company at the battle of Bunker Hill, and had seen other service in the Revolutionary war. He lived on the "Old Walpole Road," four miles from town, where the Goodnows afterwards kept tavern, now the residence of Mr. E. A. Winchester. The frame was raised on the 28th, 29th and 30th of June, and it was a season of great interest and hilarity. According to the custom of the times, there was a large gathering of people, including many from out of town; and the town provided refreshments for the multitude, including a bountiful supply of the indispensable rum. The belfry and steeple were on the west end, the porch on the east, each with entrance doors, but the main entrance was at the middle of the south side, the "broad aisle" leading thence to the high pulpit opposite—built in the form of a huge wine glass—accessible by circular stairs on either side. Over the pulpit was the large, dome-shaped sounding board, to aid the minister's voice. A broad gallery extended across the south side and both ends, reached by stairways in the porch and belfry. On the floor of the house and around the galleries next to the walls were the pews, about seven feet square, seating eight persons, the partitions topped with a spindle-balustrade one foot high. It was the custom to stand during prayers, and the seats, placed along the sides of the pews and divided into short sections, were hung on hinges to turn up for that purpose; and at the close of the prayer, each worshipper would drop a seat, with a clatter like a scattering volley of musketry. Beneath the front of the pulpit were the "deacons' seats," and in front of those, a hanging table for communion service, to be let down when not in use. Across the area in front of the pulpit were long seats designed for elderly people, and others of defective hearing, called the "old men's seats;" but women never sat there. No provision was made for warming the house—such a thing was unheard of then; it could not be done with fireplaces, and stoves had not yet come into use—but later a makeshift

chimney was built from the attic and a single stove was set in the middle of the broad aisle. But that proving merely a suggestion of warmth, two were afterwards put in, one on each side of the pulpit, in front of the old men's seats.

North of the meetinghouse just in front of where Ball's block and the church now stand, was a long row of horse-sheds running east and west; and between those and the church edifice was a large stone horseblock for the convenience of women and children in mounting. On the south lay the broad, open common, with Main street in its quiet village aspect extending beyond, completely grass-grown with the exception of a narrow roadway in the middle, and a still narrower one on each side, with grass between the ruts.

Peter Wilder was the sexton, chosen by the town, and he was succeeded by Dea. Abijah Wilder, who for a long term of years had the care of the meetinghouse and the courthouse.

"It was a great work to build that house in the day of small things; as will be seen from quoting a few extracts from the records of the building committee. Most of those who bought pews, *in anticipation* of its being built, paid in cattle, that were sold at great discount, after being driven to Boston, Wrentham, or Providence. Besides, there were other obstacles, as will be seen by the following quotations.

"The following are the charges of one of the committee, viz:

	£	s	d
'To a journey in Feb., 1787, to Sutton, Franklin, and Boston, to purchase oil, glass, and vane . . .	1	4	0
'To a journey down with 27 head of cattel to Wrentham, Dec. 1787; also, a journey to Providence, to buy the glass for the meeting-house; and expense of keeping said cattel,	5	3	10
'May, 1788.—To a journey to Providence after the glass; to carting glass from Providence to Wrentham; also, a journey from Providence to Boston,	0	19	1"

"And the following are quoted from the same book:

'Paid for cattel more than they sold for in cash,	16	18	5

ABIJAH FOSTER'S STORE, WEST KEENE. BUILT BEFORE 1787.

	£	s	d
'To cash to defray the expenses of Samuel Heaton down to Wrentham after the glass for the meeting-house—wagon and two horses, . . .	1	18	4
'Paid Mr John Ward & Co., Providence, for glass, .	38	5	4
'The pews sold for	941	5	0
'Raised by tax,	400	0	0
'The sum total that has been paid, *in cash*, for meeting-house matters, is	120	13	9'''

(Annals, page 111.)

In attempting to relieve the financial distress of the people, the legislature had submitted to the voters a plan for issuing paper money. A town meeting was held, November 28, 1786, to consider the question, but the plan was rejected by a unanimous vote; and it failed by a large majority in the state.

Dr. Thomas Frink, who for nearly thirty years had been a prominent physician and magistrate in town, died this year.

At the annual town meeting in 1787, Capt. Jeremiah Stiles was elected representative, but at an adjourned meeting he declined to serve, and Lieut. Benjamin Hall was chosen. Asa Dunbar, town clerk and first selectman, died on the 22d of June; and a town meeting on the 10th of July chose Capt. Stiles to succeed him in both offices.

In May of this year, William Lamson established a tannery in rear of the site now occupied by Lamson block and the Five Cents Savings bank, and he and his son carried on a successful business there for many years. At that time there were only about forty families living in the vicinity of Main street. One of the principal stores of the town was in the west part, kept by Abijah Foster, on the west side of the road a few rods north of Jesse Clark's tavern,[1] west of the mill pond, where Clark also had saw and grist mills. Joseph Brown built and opened another store, nearly opposite Foster's, about that time—the little old building still standing at the turn of the road—and built the present house of Sidney C. Ellis. There was a

[1] That house was the first built in this vicinity by the "square rule," and people came from far and near to see the frame.

blacksmith's shop at the branch of the roads near the mills, a pottery northeast of Brown's store; and other mechanics found employment there. Both Foster and Brown were enterprising men, and each carried on a large general business; and that locality, with the plains to the eastward, was expected by many to be the site of the future town. But the new meetinghouse had been built on the "common," as already described, and stores and shops began to spring up near it, and gradually the business of the town centered there.

Col. Isaac Wyman still kept his tavern at the lower end of Main street as in the days of the Lexington alarm, and the veteran Capt. Dorman, 77 years old, still lived where he did when the messenger came to him on that morning of the 20th of April, 1775. Some of the business still clung to that end of the "Street." Samuel Wadsworth had had a blacksmith's shop and his residence in the old fort, and other mechanics were still in that neighborhood; a schoolhouse stood next north of Capt. Dorman's, and a new building was put up opposite Col. Wyman's tavern which was occupied the next year by the printing office.

In September of this year James Davenport Griffith, son of John Griffith, an eminent school teacher of Boston, having had two years' experience in the publication of the Continental Journal of that city, came to Keene and started the New Hampshire Recorder. The printing office was in a small, one-story, wooden building which stood on the west side of Main street, near the north line of the residence lot of the late Edward C. Thayer, a little back from the street. The office was moved the next year to the new building across the street as stated above. The first number of the Recorder that has been preserved, so far as is known, is No. 1 of the second volume, dated Sept. 9, 1788, and an incomplete file from that date to Feb. 24, 1791, bound in one volume, is in the public library.

Alexander Ralston's tavern stood on the west side of Main street, in front of what is known as the Gen. Wilson house (now Mr. Isaac J. Dunn's). The jail "of hewn logs,"

which had stood just above that tavern, had been removed a few years before, across the street and farther down; and in 1785, a new one of wood had been built on Prison street, as already stated.

On Aug. 19, 1787, a remarkable tornado swept over all this part of the country. Many people were killed and many more were injured. The Recorder reported that "The destruction of houses, barns, cattle, etc., is beyond conception." The cattle were killed and injured chiefly by the falling of trees.

On the 7th of January, 1788, the town chose Rev. Aaron Hall a delegate to a convention to act upon the federal constitution for the government of the United States proposed by the national convention. The state convention met at Exeter on the 13th of February, and chose Gen. John Sullivan president. He was also president of the state at that time. The opposition to the proposed constitution was so strong that its friends did not dare risk a vote on its adoption, but carried an adjournment to gain time; and the convention met again at Concord, on the 18th of June. On the 21st, the vote of adoption passed by 57 to 47, New Hampshire being the ninth state to ratify, thus giving the required two-thirds majority of states for the final adoption of the constitution of the United States. On the 30th of June, the inhabitants of Keene celebrated that ratification. No account of the ceremonies has been preserved, but there were religious services in the meetinghouse, and Rev. Aaron Hall preached a sermon which was printed by request, for sale and distribution.

At the annual town meeting the committee previously appointed to adjust the claims of those who had served in the late war but had not been settled with in a former average of pay, made their report, recommending that those persons be paid certain sums. The town accepted the report so far as to grant them two-thirds of the respective sums recommended, and raised 106 pounds to pay this and the former average. The following are the names mentioned and the sums granted to each:

	£	s	d		£	s	d
Simeon Clark,	2	2	4	Timothy Ellis, 3d,	1	1	2
Jonathan Pond,	2	2	4	Lieutenant Wright,	2	10	2
Maj. Davis Howlet,	2	2	4	Abraham Wheeler,	0	17	2
Thomas Field,	2	2	4	Royal Blake,	4	14	0
Adin Holbrook,	2	2	4	Captain Richardson,	1	4	0
Capt. Stephen Griswold,	2	2	4	Benjamin Willis,	2	1	2
Joshua Osgood,	1	12	0	Isaac Esty,	1	8	10
Jonathan Dwinell,	1	1	2	Maj. Josiah Willard,	1	16	8
Gideon Ellis,	1	1	2	Samuel Hall,	2	2	4

In the legislature a convention of both houses chose Capt. Josiah Richardson, representative from Keene, to fill a vacancy in the state council for the year ensuing.

On the 26th of June the town "voted to Rase the sum of Two Hundred pounds Lawful Money for the use of Finishing the New Meetinghous;" and on the 18th of September "voted to Impower the Committee to Give and Convey the old Meeting Hous to the County of Cheshire for a Court hous for the use of said County—Provided the said County will accept of the said Hous for the use aforesaid and moove it to the North west Corner of the Meeting Hous Common in Keene and permit the Inhabitenc of said Towne to hold their Towne Meetings in said Hous;" and the conveyance was made in accordance with that vote. For several years efforts had been made and articles inserted in the warrants for town meetings to have the town appropriate money for instruction in church music, but the town had persistently refused to take such action. At this meeting on the article in the warrant, "To see if the Towne can Devise any Method to encourage the art of Singing—as it is almost neglected in our Congregation"—Abijah Wilder, Capt. Jeremiah Stiles and Dea. Daniel Kingsbury were chosen a committee to "Incurige the art of Singing without any Cost to the Towne."

About this time Mr. Samuel Cooke, "improved" (erected) a building for stores south of the present Eagle Hotel. That part of Main street from the hotel to Water street was occupied by several shops and places of business, and was called "Federal Row." Mr. Cooke was in trade in connection with Capt. Samuel Wetherbee, of Col. Wyman's regiment in the war, but was soon succeeded by Moses Johnson, who had occupied a store and lived where

RESIDENCE OF SAMUEL DINSMOOR, SR. BUILT BY PELEG SPRAGUE IN 1795.

Gurnsey's block now stands. Johnson soon afterwards joined Mr. James Mann, who had built the store subsequently occupied by A. & T. Hall (or it is possible the firm of Johnson & Mann built it), where Buffum's block now stands. Johnson also had pot and pearl ash works, and a distillery on what is now Castle street, and on the ridge north of it, and a store in Walpole in connection with his business here. He did a large general business, and was public spirited and very active in advancing the interests of the town.

Daniel Newcomb, who for ten years had been the principal lawyer in town, had his office where Gurnsey's block now stands. Peleg Sprague came in 1787, and soon built and lived in what is now known as the Laton Martin house, and had his office north of it, in his yard, where the brick house now stands. At first his office was on the site of Gurnsey's block.

David Simmons, the "shoemaker from Boston," lived on the east side of Main street, toward the lower end, and removed his shop from there "to Cooke's building in Federal Row." He was father of David A. Simmons, who left the Simmons fund to the town of Keene.

Capt. Josiah Richardson was still keeping tavern in the house which he had built on Pleasant street, on the site of the present Y. M. C. A. building; and Rev. Aaron Hall was living in his new house, built by the town, on the same street.

Main, Pleasant and Prison streets (Washington), Walpole road (School street), Packersfield road (Water street), and Boston road (Baker street), were nearly the same then as now, and Cross street was laid out that year, but none of the other streets had been opened, except that Roxbury street and one or two others had been used without a formal lay-out.

Aaron and Luther Eames, who were keeping the Ralston tavern in 1786, had now succeeded Dr. Ziba Hall in his tavern, on the east side of Main street, where the small engine house now stands, near the railroad; and Lemuel Chandler "opened a new Tavern, nearly opposite the meeting-house, at the sign of the Lyon and the Blue

Ball." That was called the Chandler House, and was on the site of the present Cheshire House. Chandler died the next year, and the property came into the hands of Dr. Thomas Edwards, who had married Chandler's sister, and the house, known as Edwards's tavern, was kept by him for many years. Capt. Reuben Partridge also kept a tavern on the old Surry road, near his mills—afterwards Holbrook's—on the outlet of Goose pond; and there were others along the main roads in town.

At each of these public houses spirituous liquors were sold under a license from the state; and from the confessions of "One late of the club," published in the Recorder, it is evident that there was "a set of gamblers"—a club for that purpose, in fact—in Keene, even in those days of Puritan piety. But Col. Wyman informs his friends and the public, by an advertisement in the Recorder, "that he shall not in future vend any liquors—but would be glad to serve Travellers with Boarding and Lodging, and the best of Horse-keeping;"—a pioneer temperance man.

Ephraim Cummings and Richard Stratton had clothiers' works at West Swanzey and advertised, "That their customers may be accommodated with colours of every kind (except scarlet), particularly Blue in its highest perfection." Benjamin Balch also had a fulling mill and clothier's works on the north branch of White brook near the old Westmoreland road, four miles from the village; and Capt. John Warner, then or soon after, had similar works where "Mill creek"—from the mills on West street—joins the river, near the present greenhouses of Ellis Brothers.

The Recorder of Dec. 30 says: "We are happy to inform the Friends to American Manufactures that the use of Spinning Wheels and Looms has never been so prevalent at any period since the late revolution as at the present day. Several pieces of elegant and fashionable Broadcloths have lately been manufactured in this town, the texture, colour, and duration of which are by no means inferior to European Guinea Cloths." Joseph Newell had a tailor's shop in town, and made fine garments.

Goodale & Homer had one of the stores in a long,

narrow building on the east side of Main street, below the Chandler House. They afterwards removed to the old one-story wooden store on the opposite corner (now Elliot's), built by Capt. Josiah Richardson. Ichabod Fisher still kept his small store in the little old yellow house, already mentioned; and Dr. Jonas Dix had a "Medicinal Store" on the west side of upper Main street.

On the 9th of October, 1788, the town "voted to seat the New Meeting Hous," and chose Capt. John Houghton, Capt. Jotham Metcalf, Daniel Newcomb, Esq., Col. Timothy Ellis, and Samuel Bassett a committee for that purpose.

"Voted that the Pew in the frunt Galery bee appropriated for the use of the Singers in Keene and for their use only."

On Wednesday, October 29, the new meetinghouse was "consecrated to the Divine Being" with appropriate exercises, in which Rev. Mr. Olcott of Charlestown, and Rev. Mr. Fessenden of Walpole, who had formerly preached here, assisted. The pastor delivered "a pertinent and comprehensive discourse," and the exercises closed with an anthem and a benediction.

The Recorder said: "The zeal and unanimity which the Inhabitants of this Town have discovered in the completion of an elegant structure, which perhaps is not inferior to any of the kind throughout the state, must redound to their immortal honor."

A correspondent in the same paper suggested that a bell and a pall be immediately procured by subscription; and he urged the fencing of "the burying ground at the lower end of the Main street," which was exposed to the invasion of cattle.

On the 16th of October, Mrs. Sally Hall, "the amiable consort of Rev. Aaron Hall," died. The funeral was at the meetinghouse, Rev. Mr. Fessenden officiating.

The first town meeting to vote for electors of president and vice president of the United States, and for three members of congress, under the new federal constitution, was held at the old meetinghouse on the 15th of December.

There had been opposition to the constitution and some would not act under it, but all the votes cast in

Keene, thirty in number, were for the electors who voted for George Washington and John Adams. Samuel Livermore, Benjamin West and Nicholas Gilman had thirty-five votes each for members of congress.

At the annual election, March 3, 1789, Gen. John Sullivan was chosen president of the state, Keene casting fifty-four votes for him to twenty-six for John Pickering.

Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, Capt. Jotham Metcalf, Major Davis Howlett, Lieut. Benjamin Balch and Eri Richardson were chosen a committee "to see what school houses are wanting (in the several districts) and how much money is wanting to build school Houses."

"Voted to Fence the Several Buring places in this Towne and Chose a committee of Four for that purpos and chose Major Willard Michel Metcalf Levi Partridg and Capt. John Houghton who are hereby Directed to Call on their Neighbors to Turn out and Do said work without any Cost or charge to the Towne."

"Voted that the Select Men Provid a Pall or grave Cloath at the Expence of the Towne." The pall was purchased in 1792—the first one used.

At an adjourned meeting, on the 31st of March, the committee appointed at a previous meeting to examine the accounts of the building committee, reported that two hundred pounds was the sum needed to finish the meeting-house; and the town voted that sum, to be assessed immediately. It also authorized the building committee to sell the pews in the new house not already disposed of at public vendue to the highest bidder.

"Voted to purchas a Peace of Land of Capt. Richardson to set horssheds on—ten feet wide and to Extend from the Northeast corner of the Common to whare the old meeting hous Now Stands and to pay for the same out of the Towne Treasurey." All the inhabitants of the town were granted the privilege of building horsesheds on that land under the direction of a committee. Court street had not then been opened, and the old meetinghouse stood where that street now enters the square.

One of the articles in the warrant was: "to See if the Towne will Hire a School Master for a year provided the payment Can be made easy." The town voted not to

hire. But Israel Houghton was teaching a private school here at that time; and a "Mr. Willard," (doubtless Lockhart, son of Major Josiah, who was then 26 years of age) taught a school for both sexes in "Free Masons' Hall." He and his pupils gave public exhibitions which were highly commended. To the second one, held in August, were sold "Tickets of admission, half a pistareen each." (A pistareen passed for seventeen cents.)

In May, "Jonathan Houghton from Boston" opened a store on the east side of Main street below the Chandler House. He was succeeded the next spring by John Patten, who advertised for "Fifteen or Twenty Tons of Flax, to be paid for in goods,"—to counteract a similar advertisement for the same amount by Daniel Ashley of Winchester. Patten also offered "Cash for Salts, and Goods for Ashes, or clean Cotton or Linen Rags," and added, "Pearl Ash Manufactured on the shortest Notice given."

The Recorder copied from Boston papers an account of a pair of oxen brought to that market which "exceeded all, for fatness and weight, ever known in the thirteen states." The live weight of the pair was 3,586 pounds. Three years later a Concord paper published a paragraph headed "Great Oxen," stating that a pair had been brought down from Plymouth which weighed 2,616 pounds and sold for $180. Many persons still living remember a pair that Elijah Blake of Keene raised and sent to market by his son, Justin S. Blake, in 1866, which weighed 5,302 pounds, and sold for $600.

On Oct. 6, 1789, there was a muster at Keene of part of Gen. Chase's brigade—the Sixth regiment, Col. Whitcomb of Swanzey; the Twenty-Second, Col. Aldrich of Westmoreland; the company of cavalry, Capt. Isaac Wyman of Keene (son of Col. Isaac); and the company of artillery, Capt. Butterfield. Luther Eames of Keene was brigade major. The whole formed in Main street and "marched into the training field," where they were reviewed by Maj. Gen. Bellows of Walpole, and Brig. Gen. Chase. The cavalry and artillery were in new and brilliant uniforms, and all made a fine appearance. Refreshments for the troops were provided by the general officers.

The Balches had been succeeded as post riders by Ozias Silsby of Acworth, the route remaining substantially the same as that established in 1781. Uzziel Hurd of Lempster also carried the mail and the papers from the printing office in Keene to the towns in Cheshire county not on the mail line, "once a fortnight, bad weather excepted" —riding as far north as Plainfield, and doing an express business.

The appropriations of the town for the support of schools had been steadily increasing until, at the annual meeting in 1790, the sum raised was 100 pounds in addition to that required by law—which was five times the sum required of the town as its proportion of the state tax, amounting this year to nearly fifty pounds. The town also voted "to make up what is wanting to pay for finishing the Meeting hous agreeably to the report of the committe."

In early times, salmon and shad were plentiful in the Connecticut river, and they even ran up the Ashuelot and its larger branches. "By the law of nature and nations" the people of this valley should have continued in possession of those delicious varieties of food, but with the settlement of the country, came dams across the streams, and the fish were prevented from making their annual visits to these waters. For several years previous to 1789, petitions had been presented from the selectmen of Winchester and other inhabitants of the county, for sluices to be opened through the dams to allow the passage of the fish, and the legislature passed an act requiring such sluices to be made. The annual town meeting in Keene in 1790 "chose Capt. Richardson Lockhart Willard and Eli Metcalf a Committe to Inspect the Several Milldams across Ashawolet River, agreeably to a law of this State." That statute remained in force until 1794.

A town meeting on the 10th of June "voted to Build a workhous at Som futter Perod and voted to hire a workHous for the present and chose a committee to do the same viz Isaac Griswold Davis Howlett and Josiah Richardson and chose Josiah Richardson to oversee s^{d} workHous and Tak proper cair of" the poor.

June 17, the governor and council appointed "Daniel Newcomb Esq. of Keene first Justice of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for the County of Cheshire."

A census of the state was taken this year, that of Keene being:

Males above 16	316
Males under 16	318
Females	671
Other free persons	5
Slaves	2
Amount	1,314

[1312]

At this time Charlestown had 1,093 inhabitants; Claremont, 1,435; Jaffrey, 1,235; Swanzey, 1,157; Winchester, 1,209; Walpole, 1,245; Richmond, 1,380; Chesterfield, 1,905; and Westmoreland, 2,018.

Keene had two negro slaves, and in the state there were 158. In 1781 and 1782, the following advertisements were published in the New Hampshire Gazette:

"A likely, capable Negro Girl, 14 years of age, to be sold, or exchanged for a Negro Boy. Enquire of the Printer."

"To be sold very cheap for want of employment—A likely, healthy Negro Girl about 15 years of age, understands all kinds of housework—will suit town or country. Enquire of the Printer."

Early in 1791 the printing office of the New Hampshire Recorder was removed from the building opposite Col. Wyman's tavern to one just below the Chandler House; and the publisher announced that "the great declension of Advertisements, and the difficulty of obtaining pay" for the paper would compel him to discontinue its publication at the close of that quarter, but that printing would be carried on as usual. But he afterwards published a few numbers of the Cheshire Advertiser.

The first bookbinder in town, so far as appears, was Thomas Smith Webb, the celebrated Freemason, who had a shop in Federal Row in 1790–96.

In January, 1791, Capt. Jeremiah Stiles was appointed a justice of the peace for Cheshire county.

The annual town meeting: "Voted that their be Liberty

to set up a Hay markett in Som Conveinant place betwene the meeting Hous and the lane called Warshbourns lane[1] where it will best Commode the propriators and the publick." The haymarket was established in the broad open street below the present City Hotel, with the Ralston tavern and a row of small shops on the west side, and "Federal Row" on the east.

On the 18th of March, in accordance with an act of the legislature establishing postoffices and post routes in New Hampshire, the president and council of the state appointed Major Josiah Richardson postmaster at Keene, and the office was at his tavern on Pleasant street—the first regularly established postoffice in town. The postmaster's compensation was "two pence to be advanced on the postage of private letters, packets &c." The same year the post routes were so changed that a mail ran once a fortnight from Concord through Weare, New Boston, Amherst, Wilton, Peterboro, Dublin and Marlboro to Keene, and thence through Westmoreland, Walpole, Alstead, Acworth, Charlestown, Claremont, Newport, Lempster, Washington, Hillsboro, Henniker and Hopkinton to Concord. Thomas Smith of Surry was postrider on that route. The compensation of the rider was twelve pounds per annum and the perquisites on private packages. The postage was sixpence on each private letter for every forty miles, and fourpence for any number of miles less than forty

In August, Hon. Daniel Newcomb was chosen a delegate to the convention which met at Concord on the 7th of September to revise the state constitution. That convention chose Hon. Samuel Livermore president, adjourned from time to time, discussed the seventy-two amendments proposed, and sent out those adopted by the convention for acceptance or rejection by the people. At two successive meetings Keene voted strongly in favor of the amendments as finally adopted. The title of the executive was changed from president to governor. At the closing session, in September, 1792, Judge Newcomb of Keene was made chairman of the committee that reported the result

[1] Washburn's lane appears to have been the same as Packersfield road.

of the labors of the convention in our present state constitution.

The annual town meeting in 1792 increased Rev. Mr. Hall's salary to 100 pounds[1] instead of eighty pounds, as it had been previously. Eighty pounds were raised for a "Bell for the new Meeting House," and Peleg Sprague was chosen a committee to purchase the same. "For encouraging the Purchase of a Bell, Judge Newcomb declared in Town Meeting, that he would pay (exclusive of his own Proportion) the Proportion of Ten men whom the Selectmen Should Judge to be least able to pay.—Squire Sprague, declared to the same Purport for Four." At a subsequent meeting, Mr. Sprague's bill for the cost of the bell and for hanging it, 95l. 2s. 8d. 2q., was allowed. Two years later the town voted to purchase a larger bell, to weigh one thousand pounds, and chose Daniel Newcomb agent for that purpose.

On the 31st of March, the veteran soldier, magistrate and eminent citizen, Col. Isaac Wyman, died, aged sixty-eight, and was buried in the old yard at the south end of Main street.

In March, Mrs. Ruth Kidder reopened a school she had taught the previous year in the basement of "Watson's shop," which stood on the west side of Main street where the Cheshire bank and buildings south of it now stand. The entrance was on the south side. The subscribers to this school "promise Mrs. Ruth Kidder the sum of five shillings [83⅓ cents] a week for her services and five shillings for her board, and to furnish the necessary wood." With the exception of two or three small buildings along the line of the street, the view to the southwest from that schoolroom door was unobstructed across open, green meadows to "Daniel's Hill" beyond.

A Mrs. Mary Dunbar (the widow of Asa Dunbar) was keeping tavern on Main street where the white house between the railroad tracks now stands. Mrs. Dunbar was the grandmother of Henry D. Thoreau, the famous naturalist.

[1] In addition to this, a "bee" was made each year to cut and haul his year's supply of wood—about forty cords—from the minister lot, two miles north of the village.

Major William Todd kept the "Ralston Tavern," and later he was the postmaster in Keene. (Josiah P. Cooke in Annals of Keene, page 104, gives the name John Todd. But it is probable that Mr. Cooke wrote from memory and mistook the name John for William. The name John Todd does not appear in any of the records of Keene, while Major William Todd was in town from 1790 to 1803, and perhaps longer.)

August 27, 1792, the town "Voted to sett off Doct.r Blake's Corner of the Town as a seperate School District, consisting of the following families—viz. John Conoly, Timothy Conoly, Doct.r Obadiah Blake, Royal Blake, Abijah Metcalf, Frederick Metcalf, Joseph Brown, Isaac Wyman, Thomas Dwinell, Josiah Ellis, Elijah Baker, & Ebenezer Baker." The Blake, Conoly (Colony), and Wyman farms still remain in possession of the descendants of those families. The Baker place is owned by Prof. Bracq, and the Dwinell place, off the road, west, by Edwin V Aldrich.

The same meeting voted to raise four hundred pounds for building and repairing schoolhouses, and "that the several burying yards be fenced by the first Day of June next by the several districts at their Expense, and in case of failure, that the Selectmen fence them at the Expense of said Districts." Five burial districts were laid out, as appears later in this chapter.

An article in the warrant for a town meeting held Sept. 24, "To permit Doct.r Dan.l Adams or Doct.r Thaddeus Maccarty or Doct.r Thomas Edwards, or any two of them to erect an Hospital in some convenient part of said Town to inoculate for the small Pox," passed in the negative.

At another meeting in November, the selectmen were authorized to employ some person to "ring the Bell in this Town as often as they shall think proper," and pay a reasonable sum for that service.

All nails were made by hand, and in consequence of the scarcity of them, the legislature had offered a bounty for their manufacture. In 1787-8, Ezra Harvey made or caused to be made at his shop in Keene, according to a certificate of the selectmen, 200,000 four-penny wrought

DANIEL ADAMS.

nails, and received the bounty thereon. Under the same conditions he and Elijah Baker continued the business for several years. In 1790, Baker made 400,000 ten-penny and Harvey 200,000 four-penny wrought nails. In 1791, Harvey made 400,000 four-penny and Baker 100,000 ten-penny wrought nails. In 1792, Baker made 300,000 ten-penny and Harvey 400,000 four-penny wrought nails.

"The only vehicle or carriage, at this time, known to be kept and used in Keene for pleasure traveling, was owned and kept by Thomas Wells, known in his day as 'Farmer Wells,' though he was by trade a hatter. This vehicle was what was then called a 'chair,' was without a top, accommodated two persons, and was frequently let for the use of persons going short distances, and who desired an easier mode of locomotion than a hard trotting horse.

"It was at a much later period that Judge Newcomb introduced the first chaise, and at a still later, that the Rev. Aaron Hall followed the same fashion. No stage at this time had ever passed through the streets, nor were the roads generally such as could be passed in wheel carriages; and the usual and only mode of travel was on horseback." (Annals, page 104.)

Through the efforts of Judge Newcomb, and largely at his expense, a "grammar school" had been set up previous to 1793; but the exact time is not known. The schoolhouse in which it was taught stood on the site of the brick one, just below the residence of Mrs. E. C. Thayer, which was removed a few years ago, when the Elliot schoolhouse was built. A schoolhouse stood on that spot for about one hundred years. The first teacher was Peter John Ware, and "He left a lasting impression of severity on the memories, if not on the backs, of his pupils." During this year (1793) William Thurston was in charge of the school. He had graduated from Dartmouth college in 1792, and afterwards settled as a lawyer in Boston. The tuition was 12½ cents a week, with a small additional sum for those who learned to write. "Mr. Thurston was succeeded by Master Farrar, a man of very agreeble, mild manners." (Annals, page 106.)

In April, Henry Blake & Co. began the publication of the Columbian Informer, or Cheshire Journal. But one copy of that paper appears to have been preserved,

although its publication continued until August, 1795, when, Henry Blake having died, it was sold to Cornelius Sturtevant, Jr., & Co.

The highest taxpayers in town in 1793, in the order of the sums paid—the first list that has been preserved—were Alexander Ralston, Thomas Baker, Abel Blake, Moses Johnson, Daniel Newcomb, James Wright, Josiah Richardson, Simeon Clark, David Willson, David Nims, Jr.

In February, 1794, a subscription was started to purchase the first town clock—to be made by Luther Smith at his shop in Federal Row. He agreed to make and warrant it and keep it in repair for ten years for thirty-six pounds. The town accepted and placed it in the tower of the meetinghouse, and it did good service for many years.

At the annual town meeting, Abel Blake, Dea. Abijah Wilder and Joseph Brown were chosen "Fire Wards;" James Morse "Culler of Staves" and Benjamin Hall "Essay master of pot and pearl ashes,"—the first mention of those offices in the town records. The office of clerk of the market was renewed and James Morse was chosen. The article, "To see if the Town will grant Money to teach Singing," was passed over.

For many years after the Revolution, Walpole was a rival of Keene for the position of leading town in the county, as were also Westmoreland, Chesterfield, Richmond and Charlestown; and in both population and valuation the three first named exceeded Keene at this time. Sometime in 1793, Isaiah Thomas and David Carlisle, Jr., established a weekly paper at Walpole, calling it "The New Hampshire and Vermont Journal, or Farmer's Museum." Incomplete files of the paper, from No. 58, vol. 2, dated May 16, 1794, to the time of its discontinuance in October, 1799, have been preserved, and have been of value in the preparation of this work. Its columns are filled chiefly with important state papers; diplomatic letters and documents, foreign and domestic; letters of Washington and other distinguished men; and the acts of congress and the legislature. Noticeable among the few advertisements, is the frequency with which husbands in the surrounding towns forbid the public to trust or "harbour" the wives

who had left their "bed and board." Five such advertisements appear in one number of that small paper, indicating much domestic infelicity even in those days. Sometimes there were spicy replies from the absconding wives, who could "talk back," and who probably had the sympathy of the public. Many advertisements of runaway apprentices appear, and rewards of one cent, two cents and six cents—seldom larger—were offered for their apprehension and return.

It was during 1794 that a copartnership was formed between Abijah Wilder and Luther Eames of Keene, for the purpose of building aqueducts. The next February, "Luther Eames and his associates were incorporated by the Legislature of Massachusetts into a society for bringing fresh water into the town of Boston." Further writings were executed in May between Abijah Wilder, Luther Eames and Jonathan Church, for building the Jamaica Pond aqueduct; and thus Boston is indebted to Keene enterprise "for the first introduction of pure water into the town."

In the early part of 1795, or possibly in the last of 1794, Asa Bullard was appointed postmaster at Keene—the first under the United States government. He had been an officer in the Revolutionary war and was styled "Capt. Bullard" when he first came to Keene; and he afterwards rose to the rank of major in the militia.[1] He kept a "Coffee House" on what is now the south corner of Dunbar and Main streets, in what was afterwards known as the "plastered house"—plastered on the outside—and had the office there. It stood on the same foundations as the present house of Mr. Isaac N. Spencer, with a garden extending south to the Packersfield road. It was afterwards the residence of Elijah Dunbar, Esq., for whom the street was named. That was a convenient location for the postoffice then, being in the Haymarket, and at the south end of Federal Row. The mails now came direct from Boston once a week and went through

[1] "He afterwards removed to Walpole and kept tavern there; and it was at his house that for some time the club of scholars and wits, who made themselves and the Farmers' Museum famous throughout the country, by their lucubrations, and consisted of Joseph Dennie, afterwards editor of the Port Folio, at Philadelphia; Royal Tyler, afterwards Chief Justice of Vermont; Samuel Hunt and Roger Vose, both afterwards members of Congress; Samuel West, and others, held their periodical symposiums." (Annals, page 79.)

to "Charlestown, No. 4." They were carried by Jotham Johnson of Leominster, Mass., who advertised to carry passengers in winter "in a convenient covered sleigh." He left Boston Wednesday morning, reached Leominster that night; came to Keene Thursday and spent the night at Capt. Bullard's Coffee House; arrived at No. 4 at 2 p. m., Friday, and returned to Walpole that night. Passing through Keene Saturday morning at 9 o'clock, Marlboro (the old town on the hill) at 11, he reached Boston at 7 o'clock Monday morning.[1] The roads as they were then would hardly be deemed passable now, and the mails were carried on horseback except when there was plenty of snow. The veteran John Balch, who began in 1781, was still carrying mails, newspapers and packages on some of the routes.

The canal and locks at Bellows Falls, for the passage of the freight boats then in use on the river, were in process of building this year. The boats were propelled up the stream with poles.

Samuel Hunt, afterwards a member of congress, was practising law in Keene at this time. His office was on the east side of Main street, below the Chandler House. He came from Alstead, remained five years, and removed to Charlestown, his native place.

Asa Bullard, Jr., taught the grammar school in 1795. He had graduated at Dartmouth in 1793, and was "afterwards a highly respectable teacher and physician in Boston." He was succeeded here by Thomas Heald, a Dartmouth graduate of 1794, who settled as a lawyer in Concord, Mass.

May 19, Capt. Ephraim Dorman, the veteran soldier and leader in the town in the early days, died, aged eighty-four, and was buried in the old south yard.

A town meeting on the 25th of May voted to increase the salary of Rev. Mr. Hall to 130 pounds—fifty pounds more than was agreed upon when he was settled. One hundred and fifty pounds in addition to the amount required

[1] In 1794, congress passed an act establishing mail routes in New Hampshire. One of those routes ran from Portsmouth through Exeter, Chester, Amherst, Keene and Walpole to Charlestown. Another ran direct from Boston to Keene. The rates of postage were, "For every single letter conveyed by land not exceeding thirty miles six cents; over thirty, not exceeding sixty miles, eight cents; over sixty, not exceeding one hundred miles, ten cents;" and so on—the rate for those carried over 450 miles being twenty-five cents. For double or triple letters, double or triple postage was required.

by law were raised for schools, and "Eighty pounds to purchase and fence Burying grounds in the several districts."

At this time the town was divided into five districts for burial purposes. The first included the village and all the inhabitants between the river and the "North Branch," from Swanzey line as far north on the west side as "Fisher Brook," and to Sullivan line on the east side. Down to this time the burying ground of this district had been the original one at the south end of Main street, but in the spring of this year the one on Prison street was opened for burial. The first interment there was that of John (Holland?) Johnson,[1] the seven years old son of Moses Johnson, who died April 22. His grave is a short distance southeast of the entrance. Gravestones in that yard giving an earlier date than 1795 are those for bodies removed from some other yard.

The second district was the southwest quarter of the town, extending as far north as the present Chesterfield road, and including the small village at old West Keene and three or four farms northwest of it. The burying ground was the old one on the knoll near Ash Swamp brook, on the farm now owned by Mr. H. O. Spaulding, where the Daughters of the American Revolution have recently placed a monument.

The third district was the northwest quarter of the town, and the burying ground was near the Westmoreland road and "near Col. Ellis's," three and a half miles from town. Later the second and third districts united, in part, in the grounds near the old Sawyer tavern, given by Col. Abraham Wheeler, who then owned and kept the tavern.

The fourth district was the north part of the town, with the burying ground in the crotch of the roads beyond the Chase farm.

The fifth district included all east of the North branch, and the burying ground was near Nathan Nye's, in what is now Roxbury.

The boundary lines of the twelve school districts were also run this year, 1795, by the selectmen, and the descriptions recorded; and those districts remained

[1] Josiah P. Cooke, in Annals of Keene, page 102, says, "John Holland," but the inscription on the gravestone is simply "John Johnson."

substantially the same for many years. From those descriptions we learn that "Esq. Baker" still had his tannery near Beaver brook on the "Boston Road;" that Fisher brook was the little stream that crosses Court street, a little more than a mile from the Square; that Eri Richardson lived near the southwest corner of the town; that Thomas Dwinell, Addington Daniels, Ammi Brown, James Lincoln, Luther Bragg, Aaron Gray, Noah Leonard and Jesse Hall, besides others previously mentioned, lived in the northwest part of the town; Cornelius Sturtevant and Captains Isaac and Stephen Griswold, near the north line, east of the river; Benjamin Archer, near the town line on the old Walpole road; James Crossfield, in the north part of what is now Roxbury; Capt. David Willson, on the southeast side of Beech hill, probably on the Chapman farm; and many other facts of interest.

The sum raised for schools this year, 1795, was 200 pounds; but an article in the warrant for a meeting in November, to see if the town would support a grammar school, was dismissed. The next year, 1796, "Monsieur Bellerieve, a Frenchman, took charge of the (private) grammar school, for the purpose of giving instruction solely in French. His career was a short one." (Annals, page 107.)

The selectmen of Keene had sold to Daniel Newcomb, Esq., in 1784, a small part of the old meetinghouse lot and common at the south end of Main street. On the 30th of November, 1795, they sold him the remainder of that lot, and he afterwards built on it a fine colonial house for his homestead, which gave place to the present structure, now the residence of Mr. E. F. Lane.

In August, Cornelius Sturtevant, Jr., & Co. began the publication of a weekly paper called the "Rising Sun." But few copies of that paper are now in existence. The "Co." was Abijah Wilder and Elias Sturtevant.

Sept. 28, 1795, the town chose Capt. Jeremiah Stiles representative in place of Daniel Newcomb, who had been elected in March, but had also been elected state senator, and resigned as representative.

"Chose Jeremiah Stiles Josiah Richardson & Dan[l] Kingsbury Esq[r] to give a deed in behalf of the Town of

Keene to the County of Cheshire of Land on the Common in Keene to extend eight Rods east of Capt Richardsons east Garden fence, from the Road on the South side of the Common to the North side of the Common, for the purpose of erecting a new Court house thereon to be for the use of the County so long as said Court house shall stand thereon and be used as such and no longer and the Town to have the same privileges on said land & in the new Court house to be erected as they now have in the old Court house and on said land."

Mr. Alexander Ralston, the wealthiest man in town, was making an effort to have the new courthouse built near his tavern—in the Haymarket. At the next annual meeting, in 1796, the town "Voted as the opinion of the Inhabitants of Keene that it would be most convenient for the Town of Keene, and for the County of Cheshire, to have a Court house built where the Old one now stands on the Common in Keene; and to instruct their Representative to use his Influence in the Convention of said County to grant two hundred pounds for building the same, agreeable to the contract * * * * notwithstanding any proposals of Mr Ralston since, or if he would build one for nothing where he proposes."

The new courthouse was built during that season, very nearly on the site of the old one (the old meetinghouse), and was used as a town hall for many years. At the same time the south end of the road from Surry and Walpole was changed so as to run near the west side of it, entering Pleasant (West) street where the postoffice building now stands—along "the east side of Capt. Richardson's garden fence," and forming the present Court street, except at its south end. Previous to that it had come down nearly on the line of the present School street; and, prior to 1773, curved thence to the east, passing below the present Episcopal church, and entering Main street by "Poverty Lane," about where Lamson block now stands.

On the 7th of November, 1796, in accordance with the request of a previous county convention, the town "voted that the Court house in Keene when finished become the sole property of the County of Cheshire without reserve." Keene had voted to give the land, and prominent citizens had contributed generous sums of money towards the

erection of the building. At the December term, "The Court of Common Pleas give liberty to the Town of Keene to use the Court house for Town Meetings when there is no Court sitting there (said Town doing no injury thereto and keeping the same clean) upon their giving a deed thereof to the County. Attest

Tho's Sparhawk, Clerk."

During the year 1796, Dea. Abijah Wilder utilized his skill in laying aqueducts by bringing water in logs from a spring[1] at the north end of the village to supply his own and other families. Afterwards the same aqueduct was used to supply water to some shops and manufactories; and others were laid in town about the same time and did good service for many years.

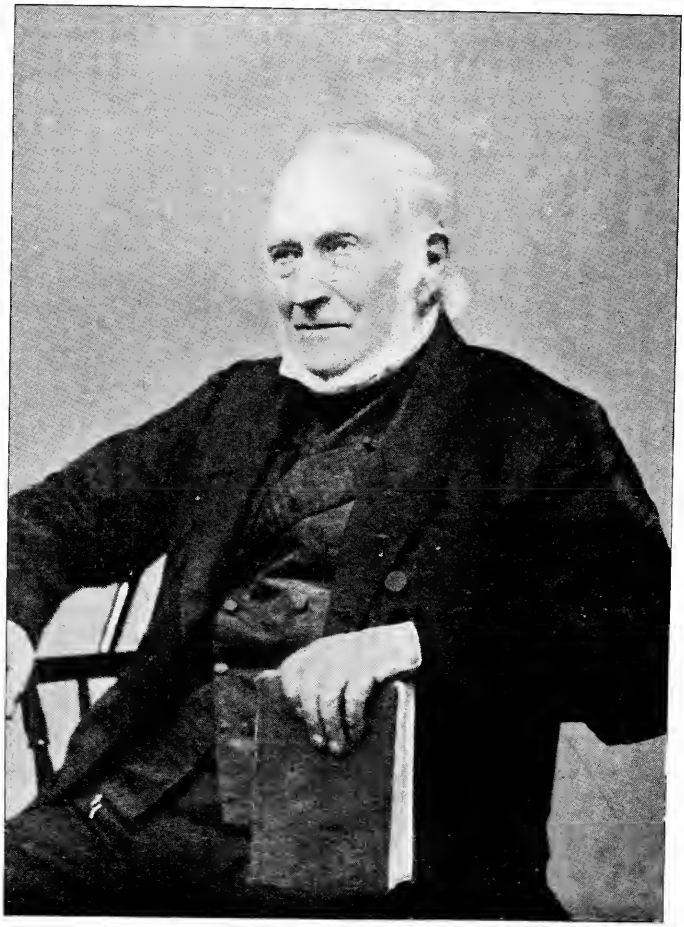
On the 10th of June the community was shocked by the sudden death of George Newcomb, eldest son of Judge Newcomb. He was a remarkably bright and promising lad, thirteen years old, and an undergraduate of Dartmouth college. He was at home on a vacation, went to the river to bathe with the boys of the grammar school, and was drowned.

A remarkably bright son of Capt. Alpheus Nims, George, in his sixth year, died also about the same time. "He was possessed of an extraordinary memory, so that he could retain, almost verbatim, discourses of considerable length." (Annals, page 80.)

In business, Allen & Dorr (Joseph Dorr, son-in-law of Capt. Josiah Richardson) had succeeded Goodale & Homer in the store on the corner, and they were sharp competitors of Moses Johnson (or "Johnson & Mann") their next door neighbors. The advertisements of the rival firms were sharp and spicy, and their customers reaped the benefit of low prices.

Down to this time, 1797, every property holder had been compelled to pay taxes for the support of the church established in the town. But the new state constitution provided that, "no person of any one particular denomination shall ever be compelled to pay towards the support of the teacher or teachers of another persuasion, sect or

[1] The Annals say from Beaver brook, but it has since been ascertained that it was from a spring.



JOHN PRENTISS.

denomination." Controversy and litigation at once sprang up from those who dissented, or pretended to dissent, from the doctrines taught in the established church in their town concerning the payment of the minister tax. In Keene, Rev. Aaron Hall was a Congregationalist, and taught the doctrines of Calvin. Dr. Ziba Hall claimed to be a Universalist. The selectmen collected the usual tax for the support of the minister. Dr. Hall brought suit to recover the tax he had paid. The town appropriated twenty dollars to defend the suit. The controversy was sharp and exciting, but heavily balanced against the doctor. Much testimony was taken. The jury gave their verdict for the defendants, in accordance with the religious feeling of the time, and on the ground that the laws did not recognize any such denomination as Universalists. Soon afterwards, the legislature recognized the Universalists and other denominations by legal enactment, and compulsory support of churches ceased.

The denominations of money in use had now so far changed from the English to the Federal system, that at the annual town meeting this year, 1797, the sums raised were stated in dollars and cents instead of pounds, shillings and pence. The sum of $500 was voted for Mr. Hall's salary, $500 for schools, $500 for repair of highways and bridges, and $800 for town charges. But the next year, 1798, the appropriations were $666.67 for schools, $666.67 for highways and bridges, and $433.33 for Mr. Hall's salary; which shows a clinging to the old English system, and a serious retrograde movement in granting Mr. Hall's salary Five years later, however, it was raised to $500, and was kept at that sum for many years.

In August, 1798, Peleg Sprague, Esq., of Keene, was elected to congress, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Hon. Jeremiah Smith. Mr. Sprague took his seat on the 4th of March following.

"The first dancing school in Keene was taught during this winter (1798–9) by Master Burbank of Brookfield, in the hall of the public house then kept by Dr. Thomas Edwards, where the Cheshire House now stands."

(Annals, page 108.)

In the early part of 1799, John Prentiss, then 21 years

old, came to Keene and began the publication of the New Hampshire Sentinel, at the "Old Printing Office," which had been the office of the Rising Sun and previous weekly papers—already described as the first office of the Recorder. "A bill of sale and transfer is drafted by N. Cooke, of the printing apparatus and effects—formerly owned by C. Sturtevant Jr. & Co.—from Abijah Wilder to John Prentiss. For these writings Abijah Wilder is debited in the books of account of N. Cooke as follows, viz: 'March 27, 1799. Abijah Wilder, Dr.—To drawing writings between him and Prentiss, 15 cents.'"—an illustration of the modesty of professional charges in those days.

The first number of the Sentinel was issued on Saturday, the 23d of March. Its motto was: "My Country's Good—a faithful Watch I stand."

The name was well chosen, for Keene was still one of the frontier points of civilization. Mr. Prentiss began with seventy subscribers at $1.50 a year—taken in wood, butter, cheese, grain, and almost any article used in a family—and he also kept a few standard books, blank books and a small stock of stationery for sale. In October, the office was removed to a new building just south of Dr. Edwards's tavern.

The previous winter had been one of remarkable severity. A paragraph in the Sentinel, dated March 30, says: "The oldest man scarcely recollects such a winter as the past. Since the middle of November the ground has been covered with snow. The mail sleigh from Boston to Walpole has passed through this town eighteen weeks in succession. * * * * We have had four months and ten days dead winter." The severity was equally great in Europe. The Sentinel of May 11, said: "The snow now, in many parts of this town, is two to three feet deep." "Somehow or other our earth appears to have gotten an unlucky jog to the Northward. The spring is extremely backward."

The 4th of July was celebrated this year with much patriotic spirit. At sunrise the bell were rung, and in default of cannon, volleys of musketry were fired. Two companies of militia under Captains Alpheus Nims and Isaac Griswold, paraded on the common, and at 11 o'clock

"escorted a large and respectable procession through the streets to the meeting-house," where religious services were held, with patriotic music, and an oration was delivered by Noah Cooke, Esq. At 3 o'clock, there was a dinner at which thirteen regular toasts were drunk; and in addition, one volunteer toast to "Peleg Sprague, Esq., our worthy Representative in Congress."

"July 20.—Died, Mrs. Abigail Nims, of this town, consort of Mr. David Nims, aged 80. Her descendants were 81—children 10, grand-children 50, great-grand-children 21. Mrs. Nims accompanied the first settlers in this town."

(Annals, page 85.)

In August, 1799, Keene was one of the recruiting stations in New Hampshire for raising volunteers for the threatened war with France. Capt. J. Dunham, of the regular army, opened an office here, heading his advertisement with:

"ATTENTION!!!

TO ARMS COLUMBIA!"

But the troops were not called out.

Washington died on the 14th of December. When the news reached Keene, in the evening, some days later, Abijah Wilder, Jr., then a boy of fifteen, went into the belfry of the meetinghouse and tolled the bell all night. The next day at noon the United States flag was hoisted, draped in mourning, and the bell was again tolled until 2 o'clock.

A town meeting was held on the 27th of January, 1800, "to carry into effect the measures recommended by Congress, and by the Proclamation of the President of the United States for the observance of the 22d day of February next—publicly to testify their Grief for the death of General George Washington."

"Voted and chose Daniel Newcomb Esqr David Forbes Esquire, Doctor Ziba Hall, Lock.^{t} Willard Esqr Capt Abel Blake, Mr Ebenezer Robbins, and Noah Cooke Esqr a Committee to make arrangements." "Voted and chose Doctor Daniel Adams and Major John Pray Blake Marshalls for that day."

The order of exercises announced by the committee requested the inhabitants to assemble "at the house of Major Todd [who still kept the Ralston tavern], at ten o'clock in the forenoon, in habiliments of mourning, the

males with crape or black ribbon on the left arm below the elbow, the females with a black sash."

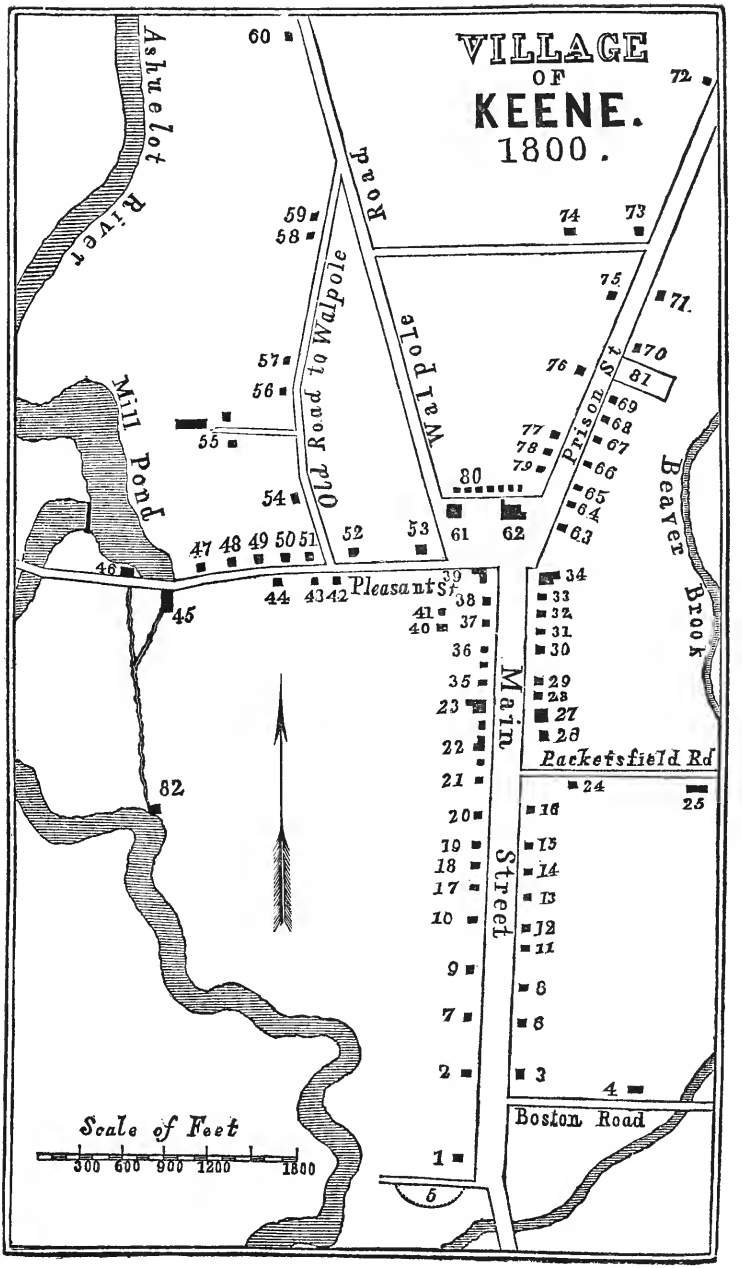
The programme was carried out as planned. The interior of the meetinghouse was draped with mourning, a flag in mourning was displayed at half staff, and the bell was muffled, and tolled during the march of the procession, and after the exercises until sunset. The procession, in which the town and other officials, the Masons and the citizens generally, joined, was escorted by the Keene Light Infantry in uniform, Capt. Alpheus Nims; the company of militia, Capt. Isaac Griswold; each with arms reversed; and the company of cavalry, Lieut. Clark; with muffled drums, from Major Todd's tavern to the meetinghouse, where appropriate religious services were held. An oration was pronounced by Samuel West, Esq., and "The choir of singers did ample justice to the solemn and affecting airs." "The ceremonies of the day were conducted with the greatest decency and propriety."

One article in the warrant for the annual town meeting in 1800 was: "To take the Sense of the qualified Voters on the Subject of using Instruments of Music in aid of vocal Music in the Meeting house on Sabbath days." It was dismissed.

In August, the town voted to raise $1,333.33 to build and repair schoolhouses.

Several prominent citizens died during the year—Hon. Peleg Sprague, in April, aged 43; Gideon Ellis, one of the early settlers, in August, aged 86; and Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, in December, aged 56.

At the close of the 18th century, Keene was a well settled township of 1,645 inhabitants, chiefly thrifty farmers and their large families, and "Keene Street" was an attractive village of about one hundred houses, shops, etc., including a fine new meetinghouse, of which the citizens had a right to be proud. President Dwight, of Yale college, an experienced traveller, described Keene as one of the pleasantest inland towns he had seen. Central Square had been laid out partly in its present form, though not extending so far north, with the meetinghouse near the north side, fronting south, the horsesheds behind it, and the "common" extending down to the present railroad tracks.


VILLAGE
OF
KEENE.
1800.
Ashuelot River
Mill Pond
Old Road to Walpole
Walpole Road
Prison St
Beaver Brook
Pleasant St
Main Street
Packetsfield Rd
Boston Road
Scale of Feet
300 600 900 1200 1800

The accompanying map of the village as it was at that time, with the page of explanations, is copied from the Annals of Keene, pages 88 and 89.

"The plan of the Village, on the opposite page, has been prepared with much labor and care. It was protracted by George W. Sturtevant, Esq. from surveys made by him and others; and the position of the buildings and the owners' names have been ascertained, by frequent consultations with many persons whose recollections go back to that period.

"The figures on the plan refer to the table below.

"REFERENCES.

"1.—Judge Newcomb.
2.—Maj. Willard.
3.—Dorman house.
4.—Thomas Baker.
5.—Old Cemetery.
6.—School House.
7.—Blake's Tavern.
8.—Dr Adams.—Post Office.
9.—Lockhart Willard.
10.—School House.
11.—Washburn house.
12.—David Simmons.
13.—ThomasField's house and shop.
14.—Eli Metcalf.
15.—Thomas Shapley.
16.—Widow Goodnow.
17.—Thomas Wells.
18.—Old Printing Office.
19.—Samuel Dinsmoor.
20.—Abel Blake.
21.—Alexander Ralston.
22.—Low shops.
23.—Ralston's tavern.
24.—Bemis, watch maker.
25.—Ralston's distillery.
26.—Dunbar house.
27.—Masonic Hall.
28.—Peter Wilder's house and shop.
29.—Luther Smith's shop.
30.—Dr Ziba Hall.
31.—Moses Johnson's house.
32.—Coopers' shops.
33.—Dinsmoor's office.—Store.—Printing Office.
34.—Dr Edwards's tavern.
35.—Peleg Sprague's house and office
36.—Daniel Watson.
37.—Watson's shop.
38.—Johnson's store.
39.—Joseph Dorr's store.
40.—Lamson's Tannery.
41.—Dwelling house in rear of Johnson's store.
42.—Draper's Bake House.
43.—James Morse.
44.—Noah Cooke.
45.—Saw Mill.
46.—Grist Mill.
47.—Nathan Blake.
48.—James Wyman.
49.—John Warner.
50.—Dr Charles Blake.
51.—William Lamson.
52.—Rev. Aaron Hall.
53.—Josiah Richardson.
54.—Abijah Wilder.
55.—Moses Johnson's pot and pearl-ash works.
56.—Israel Houghton.
57.—Nehemiah Towns.
58.—Elias Rugg.
59.—Samuel Bassett.
60.—Asahel Blake.
61.—Court House.
62.—Meeting House.
63.—Allen & Bond's store.
64.—David Forbes's office.
65.—Blacksmith's shop.
66.—Dwelling house and shop.
67.—Dr M'Carty.
68.—Dr M'Carty's small house.
69.—Spinney house and shop.
70.—Samuel Daniels.
71.—Alpheus Nims.
72.—Eliphalet Briggs.
73.—Jeremiah Stiles.
74.—Joseph Stiles.
75.—Grout house.
76.—Jail.
77.—Abel Wilder.
78.—School House.
79.—Nathaniel Briggs.
80.—Horse sheds.
81.—Cemetery.
82.—Warner's Fulling Mill."

For further explanation: Allen & Bond (Amasa Allen, from the firm of Allen & Dorr, and John G. Bond) had opened the first store on the east side of the Square. David Forbes had a law office next door north, and north of him, where city hall now stands, was a blacksmith's shop, owned by Joseph Dorr and carried on by Towns & Wright, who made axes and other tools for the merchants to sell.

Dr. Thomas Edwards kept the former Chandler House, where the Cheshire House now stands. It was at his tavern, in April, 1799, that the first veterinarian of which we have any record, one Cyrus Palmer, a black man, advertised that he would attend sick and disabled horses for a few weeks. South of that were the Sentinel office, law offices, stores and shops. Dr. Ziba Hall, who had kept tavern in 1779, on the east side of Main street, had removed to Lebanon in 1780, and had been succeeded in the tavern by Aaron and Luther Eames, apparently had returned and was again keeping the tavern at this time. Then came Federal Row, where Luther Smith made clocks and Peter Wilder made rakes, scythe-snaths, chairs and wheels. Smith afterwards built the main, or north, part of the present Eagle Hotel, where his shop stood. Many of the tall, old fashioned clocks still in use—some of them kept as heirlooms—were made by Luther Smith. The old two-story wooden Masonic Hall, with Major Wm. Todd's store on the ground floor, stood next south of where the "Adams Kingsbury" brick house now stands. Thomas Wells was keeping tavern in the old Bullard Coffee House (Dunbar house) and Alexander Ralston had a distillery down the Packersfield road. Below, Thomas Fields had a blacksmith's shop, and the "Washburne House" appears to have been in the old fort.

Down to this time, the lower part of Main street had been the "court end" of the town. Dr. Daniel Adams had built the house now 324 Main street, had been appointed postmaster in 1799, and kept the office there. Thomas Baker, Esq., was living in the house that he had built—still standing—on the sand knoll on the "Boston Road;" Judge Newcomb had built and was living in a fine colonial

RESIDENCE OF DR. DANIEL ADAMS. BUILT ABOUT 1795.

house on the site of the first meetinghouse; and William Ward Blake had married Roxana, daughter of Col. Isaac Wyman, and kept the old Wyman tavern.

Capt. Abel Blake was living on the Blake homestead, where the first Nathan began and where he was captured by the Indians. Samuel Dinsmoor had not yet taken up his residence on the place south of the Blakes, as the map represents. That was owned at that time by Major William Todd. (Samuel Dinsmoor, Jr., bought that place in 1849.)

The saddler's shop of the Willards, Josiah, senior and junior, was in Federal Row, also called the Haymarket—a stirring part of the town for business. Joseph Dorr had succeeded Allen & Dorr, on the corner of Pleasant street, and Major Josiah Richardson still kept his famous inn where the Y. M. C. A. building now stands, his barns and outbuildings extending north and west, and his large garden on the east coming out to the site of the present postoffice building.

On the same street was the residence and bakery of John Draper, whose wife was one of the heroines of the siege of Boston, succeeding Ichabod Fisher in the little old yellow house already mentioned. In the parsonage, nearly opposite, the "Social Library" was kept—almost exactly on the site of the present public library—and Rev. Aaron Hall was its librarian. It held its annual meetings in the courthouse, and was incorporated in 1801, with all the leading men in town as members. Noah Cooke, Esq., was clerk of the corporation.

At the water privilege on the river there was a sawmill, and also a gristmill with two runs of stones, one for wheat, with bolters for making flour. They had been owned and run by Nathan and Abel Blake, but were sold, in 1799, to Luther Smith, the clock maker. Dea. Abijah Wilder, the cabinet maker, lived on the old Walpole road, and was at this time making "screw cheese presses." He was something of an inventor, and had recently obtained a patent for bending sleigh runners by steaming the wood, considered a wonderful invention at that time. Capt. Alpheus Nims owned the mills on Beaver brook and lived on what had been his father's farm, on Prison street, since

known as the Page farm. The old house, built by David Nims, stood until a few years ago, where Charles Wright, 2d, now lives. It was removed to Page street—now No. 39—the large old chimney in the middle giving place to smaller ones. Dr. Maccarty, on Prison street, kept an apothecary's shop, and was the first in town to advertise and sell patent medicines.

One of the finest residences in town stood at the northeast corner of the common, where Clarke's block now stands—a two-story house, facing south, with a flower and vegetable garden in front. It was owned at that time by Major Josiah Richardson, and occupied by Abel Wilder. Wilder afterwards owned it and sold to Albe Cady, in 1808. After that, it was known as the Cady house and stood until 1880, when it was burned with other buildings on that corner.

The two stores at old West Keene were doing a thriving business, and David Kingsbury had drugs and medicines in a part of the one kept by Abijah Foster. Jesse Clark was still keeping his tavern and running his saw and grist mills, and advertising all kinds of grain for sale. Ebenezer Robbins had a sawmill on White brook—succeeding Adin Holbrook—on the road that ran (and still runs) south from beyond that west village to and over West mountain. The power was an undershot wheel, propelled simply by the force of the current, with considerable fall. For nearly forty years, Amos Partridge, and his successor, Lieut. Reuben Partridge, had had a sawmill on the old Surry road, on the stream from Goose pond; and Elisha Briggs was making cider mills and other machinery at his mills on the North branch, since known as the "peg factory."

The clothier's mills at West Swanzey still did a large part of the clothier business for Keene; but Silas Dickinson had followed the Balches in the fulling mills near the Westmoreland road, and he was succeeded by his son William.

Mechanics of all kinds had shops in the village and at West Keene, and their business was brisk, for manufacturing by machinery had scarcely yet begun, and all tools and implements had to be made by hand.

In addition to the licensed taverns already mentioned, Lieut. Stephen Chase was keeping one on the Surry road, where his descendants still live; Major Joseph Willson had one west of the bridge, at South Keene; Jehosaphat Grout kept one on Prison street; Abijah Foster and Joseph Brown held licenses as taverners at West Keene, with Royal Blake and Timothy Colony near them; Major Josiah Willard and Lieut. Benjamin Hall did the same here in the village; and there were others in town. Nearly every merchant and trader, and several others, were licensed retailers of intoxicating drinks; and it was still the custom to allow horses, cattle and hogs to run at large in the streets, and the public pound and the yokes of the hog-reeves were in frequent requisition.

Jotham Johnson, the mail carrier, had put a four-horse stage on the route from Boston to Keene for one summer, but the roads were bad, it failed to pay expenses, and he took it off.

The amount of taxes raised by the town was:

School-house tax	$1,296 94
All others	1,664 73
Total	$2,961 67

The ten highest taxpayers, in their order, were Moses Johnson, Daniel Newcomb, Thomas Baker, James Wright, Ephraim Wright, Abel Blake, Joseph Dorr, Thomas Edwards, Noah Cooke and Samuel Heaton.

CHAPTER XII.

PIONEER LIFE.

1736—1816.

The early settlers of this part of the country were a hardy, vigorous race, inured to hardship and accustomed to danger, generally the young, energetic and enterprising members of the older communities. "God sifted a whole nation that he might send choice grain" into these wildernesses.

Piety, integrity and respect for law and the authority of church and state were striking features of the early New England character. Those pioneers had small store of "book learning," for that was scarcely to be had, but they were liberally educated in the arts and methods of pioneer life. The hard life which they were compelled to lead quickened every fibre, and made them sharp in intellect and feature.

They were attracted to the settlement of these townships by the fertility of the soil—made evident by its fine growth of timber—the low price of the lands, each original proprietor getting a fraction over 400 acres for about twenty-five dollars, and the ultimate life of comfort and comparative wealth in prospect for those who owned and cultivated those lands. There was also an element of freedom from the restraints of society which is always fascinating to a large class of men—and even to some women—and an attractiveness in the beauty and grandeur of the landscape. The life which they must lead here was but a repetition of that which they had learned from their ancestors of the settlements nearer the coast, who had fought and driven back the Indians, cleared the land of its heavy growth of timber and brought it to a state of remunerative cultivation. They were in perfect training for the work, like the athlete for the race.

Their first efforts were directed to clearing away the

timber and putting in crops of rye and corn. For this purpose, they would advance into the forest, singly or in pairs if they were to be isolated, or in small parties if they were to be neighbors, on foot, blazing the trees to mark the route, each carrying his axe, gun, knife, tinder box, camp kettle, bucket or wooden bottle, provisions and other necessaries of life in the wilderness, among which were a present supply of rum and tobacco. For plate, bowl and platter, the pioneer would split small logs and hollow out the parts; and from a small slab he would soon carve out a shapely spoon.[1] This beginning was usually made in the spring, at the time when, by felling a hemlock or two enough bark could be quickly peeled for an excellent shelter when placed on poles upheld by crotched stakes. As soon as the foliage was out in full, he would cut down the trees on his first clearing, around the spot selected for his log-cabin. In a few weeks the leaves and twigs would be dry and he would set his "chopping" on fire. Millions of feet of the finest pine and other timber were destroyed in this way each year, to clear the land. Before setting the fire the careful woodsman would dig a shallow trench around his chopping, by removing the brush and leaves, to prevent his fire from overrunning the surrounding forest.

A "good burn" would clear the land of brush and everything except the bodies of the trees. These the young farmer would cut into logs small enough to handle, and roll them into piles to burn, saving enough to build a fence around his piece. For this heavy work, and for building his cabin, he would "change works" with his neighbor. Sometimes neighbors joined in "bees" to clear the land after the burning, and from the practice of shrewdly planning the piles for hastening the work, came the satirical political term "log-rolling." Yet in many cases the pioneer had no neighbor within many miles, and had to do all the work himself. In later years, when he had oxen, the logs would be hauled together and piled for burning. If the land was rough and intended for pasture, the logs were left on the ground, and the rye and grass seed were sown

[1] Spoonwood pond in Packersfield (Nelson) was thus named from the laurel, called spoonwood, which grew on its shores and from which the Indians and early settlers made spoons.

among them. Oxen were used almost wholly for hauling and for work on the farm, and horses were kept for riding only. Bringing his seed rye from the nearest supply—frequently on his back, sometimes on a horse barrow—he would sow it "broadcast" and scratch it in with a small two-pronged "scratcher." This preparatory work for his new home would occupy the young adventurer till late in the autumn, when he would return to his former home for the winter. Sometimes young wives accompanied their husbands in the first instance, and lived in the primitive manner above outlined. In that case a more elaborate outfit was carried and the log cabin was built at once.

Corn would be planted in the following spring by opening the soil with the hoe and putting in the seed wherever there was room for a "hill" of corn to grow between the stumps, rocks, and such logs as might be left on the ground. This method was called the "Indian plant." Pumpkins, peas, beans and other vines and vegetables could also be planted. It would be several years before ploughs could be used among the stumps and roots.

Then the log cabin would be built, of straight, smooth logs, matched and locked together at the corners to bring them in close contact and make impervious walls. Unavoidable cracks were filled with sticks and plastered with mud or clay mortar. When time and the expense could be afforded the logs were hewn, otherwise they were left round. One opening was left for a door and one for a window, the latter to be closed with a shutter without hinges, made of slabs split from logs. The door, made in the same way, would be hung on wooden hinges. The roof was of poles covered with bark, or thatched with rye straw. The earth formed the floor, and was soon trodden hard and smooth by use. Sometimes a puncheon floor was laid, but that was a luxury. In many cases there was but one room, sometimes two, the partition being made of logs like the walls. The first chimney was usually of stones at the bottom, topped out with short logs and sticks built like the cabin walls, and plastered with clay mortar. Sometimes there was simply a hole in the roof, with the fire on the ground in the middle of the cabin;

and sometimes the fire was outside, in front of the cabin door. Over the fire a "lug-pole" of green wood was placed, supported at the ends by crotched stakes, or in the jams of the chimney, with wooden hooks for suspending pots and kettles. Poles were laid across overhead in the cabin, on which articles could be stored; and sometimes puncheons were laid for a more permanent upper floor and the loft was made a sleeping apartment for the children, the hired man, and even for guests, to be reached by a ladder. For a cellar, an excavation was made outside the cabin and covered with logs and earth.

In two or three years, our farmer would have some grass on his place, and there was always good browsing and some native grass in the lowlands, and he could keep a cow; and it would not be long before he would have young cattle, a pair of young oxen, and a few sheep. Hogs and poultry he could have from the first, but the horse was a luxury and usually came later. Seeds would be brought at the first, and one of his first acts would be to plant a nursery of fruit trees; and a few years would bring him an abundance of apples, peaches and plums; and the women never forgot to bring a few seeds of their favorite flowers, and bulbs and roots for the garden. Every mother knew the medicinal qualities of many herbs and plants and other physician was rarely employed in the family, or could be obtained.

All the first years of the pioneer's life were devoted to clearing his land in the way described, piece by piece, and raising crops of corn, rye, vegetables, and sometimes wheat and other cereals. The virgin soil was rich—improved by the ashes of the burnt trees—and the yield was abundant and farming was remunerative. True, much of the soil was consumed by those furious fires and was left so thin that years of cropping nearly exhausted it. So hardy and powerful were those men, and so skilled in the use of the axe, that many a one felled his acre of heavy timber in a day, and some of them would drink a quart of rum and chew a "hand" of tobacco apiece while doing it. The writer remembers men who were known to have accomplished those feats, and has heard it from the neighbors of

others who had done the same. He also distinctly remembers one woman of that class of people, a farmer's wife, and the mother of a good deacon of one of the churches here at the present time[1] (1900), who has been known to pick up a barrel of cider and throw it into a cart. And her son relates the fact that when water was scarce and was hauled to the house in barrels, she would lift a full barrel, poise it on the edge of a large tub and empty it from the bung-hole.

The principal growth of the forest was oak, maple, beech, birch, white and black ash, and elm about the low grounds, with hemlock and spruce on the higher altitudes; while the plains and some of the lower elevations were covered with lofty white and yellow pines, perfectly straight and frequently reaching the height of eighty to 100 feet without a branch, making some of the finest lumber in the world. Boards may still be seen in the finish of some of the old houses that are three to four feet wide and perfectly clear. Those trees were so valuable that in every grant of a township in New Hampshire they were reserved for masts "for the use of His Majesty's Royal Navy."

The "sweetening" of the pioneers was made from the sap of the sugar maple, caught in troughs made from small logs split in halves and hollowed out. Such troughs were still used for that purpose within the memory of people now living.

The principal animals of these forests were the black bear, wolf, fox, wild cat, catamount, moose, deer, raccoon and the smaller ones still found here. The otter lived in the ponds, so numerous in these eastern states, and vestiges of the work of the beaver may still be seen where he built his wonderful dam, formed his artificial pond, and constructed his ingenious house.

In 1801, "A Mr. John Butler, while digging a cellar, on the first day of April, in Washington street, found, under a stump, fifty snakes of various kinds—house adders, striped, green, and white bellied snakes. They measured

[1] Mrs. Leavitt Philips, of that part of Nelson which is now Roxbury. Her maiden name was Mary Hinds, niece of Capt. Jacob Hinds of Chesterfield, one of Col. Reed's captains in the Revolutionary war. (Dea. Harvey Philips.)

from one foot to three feet in length. All were torpid but the house adders." A nest of "upwards of three hundred" was found at another time. (Annals, pages 90 and 91.)

The flesh of the moose was considered equal to beef, and deer furnished venison for those who were skilful enough to shoot them. Wild turkeys were sometimes shot, but they were not here in large numbers; and wild geese simply made some of our larger ponds, as they do at the present time, occasional resting places on their long journeys north and south. At harvest time wild pigeons came in immense numbers to feed upon the grain. Sometimes their flocks were so large that they obscured the sun like a cloud, and they had special roosting groves where millions of them would gather for the night. Their speed on the wing was 120 miles an hour. They were taken in large numbers in nets, and were delicious food. They have almost wholly disappeared, and naturalists tell us that they have migrated to Chili and Peru, South America. Song birds were plentiful, and morning and evening, in bright weather, the air was filled with their music.

Bears and wolves were a terror and scourge, and bounties were paid by the state for their destruction. Bears sometimes paid the penalty of their temerity in devouring pigs, and corn in the field, by furnishing the pioneer's table with their flesh, but it was not considered a delicacy.

"About this time [1777] a furious fight between a man and a bear took place in the North part of the town, of which the following account has been furnished by his son. Mr. Eleazer Wilcox, of Gilsum, going into his pasture, and having with him his gun, loaded with a small charge of powder, saw a very large bear, six or eight rods from him. Taking a bullet from his pocket, he dropped it into his gun, fired, and hit her in the head. She fell, but before Wilcox could get to her, sprang up and ran off. He then went to Mr. Joshua Osgood's, who was an experienced hunter and had a large dog, and they together followed the track of the bear, which was marked by her blood. Having followed it about three miles, supposing they were near her, they separated that they might have more chance of obtaining a shot at her. On a sudden, Wilcox saw the bear advancing, in a furious rage, towards him. His gun missed fire; the bear, coming near him, knocked it from

his hand with her paw, and then, by a blow on the head, knocked him down. He rose on his knees, when the bear, putting her paws on his shoulders, endeavored to throw him on the ground; but he, being a very athletic man, maintained his position with desperate effort. During the struggle, the dog aided him and perhaps saved his life by frequent and furious attacks. Osgood soon came up; for some time, the combatants being closely grappled and their positions often changing, he hesitated to fire, fearing to kill his neighbor; but perceiving the case desperate, he at length fired, and fortunately shot the bear in the side, without hitting Wilcox. She ran off, and the next day was found dead, East of the Branch. Mr. Wilcox, having received many wounds, and strained his back severely in the struggle, was carried home on a litter; and, though he lived many years, never entirely recovered."

(Annals, page 49.)

In 1811, the inhabitants of Keene, Gilsum and Sullivan joined in a large and well organized bear hunt, to rid themselves of the pests.

Wolves made the night hideous with their howling—two or three making sounds as if there were twenty—and were dangerous when pinched with hunger, particularly to children; but they seldom attacked men. They were so annoying in 1796 that a wolf hunt was organized at Walpole in which five hundred persons joined. Two wolves and a bear were shot, and the hunt ended with a supper at the several taverns in the vicinity.

In each settlement a sawmill was one of the first things to be set up, to provide lumber for building and finishing; and the blacksmith, and the shoemaker carrying his bench from house to house on his back, soon followed the leading pioneers, often combining farming with work at their trades. Here in Upper Ashuelot, in 1735, the year before the first permanent settlement was made, the proprietors voted 100 acres of "middling good land and twenty-five pounds in money" to any one who would build a sawmill on Beaver brook; and in 1738 "a set of blacksmith's tools" was bought by the proprietors for the use of the settlers. Until the blacksmith came—and afterwards in many cases—wooden pins, withes, and the inner bark of the elm and basswood did duty in the place of nails, bolts and wire.

Mechanics were very important members of a community, for all tools and implements had to be made by hand. Scarcely any ready-made article could be bought. In repairing old furniture, one often finds even small brads and finishing nails made by hand one hundred years ago or more.

Coopers were very much relied upon for making all sorts of wooden vessels. They were required by law to brand their casks with their name or initials and were punished with fine for making defective ones.[1] They not only made casks, tubs, barrels, buckets, etc., but also the keeler, piggin, noggin and many other vessels in common use.

It would not be long before a gristmill would be added to the sawmill. In 1736, the year of the first permanent settlement, the proprietors of Keene appointed a committee "to agree with a man to build a gristmill," and one was soon in operation. But until the gristmill came the settlers had to go long distances to have their grain ground. When John Kilburn and Col. Benj. Bellows first went to Walpole they had to go to Northampton to mill. In 1763, Ruth Davis of Rutland, Mass., at the age of seventeen, married "Breed Batchelder[2] of Keene, gentleman." They lived near the east line of the town, in what is now Roxbury, and she used to take a bag of grain on a horse and go to Rutland, fifty miles, to mill, doubtless including a visit to her home.[3] John Taggard, the pioneer of Stoddard, settled there with his family in 1768. Their nearest neighbors were at Peterboro, Keene and Walpole. He had to carry his grain on his back to Peterboro, twenty miles, to have it ground. On one trip he was delayed by a great snow storm till his family nearly starved.[4] "It is related that Mrs. William Greenwood,[5] one morning in winter, when the snow was deep, put on snowshoes, took half a bushel of corn on her shoulder, went by marked trees to Peterborough, had it ground into meal, and returned to Dublin the same day."

[1] Law of 1718.
[2] The tory of 1776.
[3] She lived till 1840—ninety-four years—and was buried in the small graveyard near Joseph Chase's.
[4] Gould's History of Stoddard.
[5] History of Dublin.

In winter the snows were usually deep, and the only means of travel was on snowshoes, in the use of which the pioneers became very skilful. Children, and even men and women, went barefooted the greater part of the time. "Children are early used to coarse fare and hard lodgings; and to be without shoes in all seasons of the year is scarcely accounted a want." (Belknap's History of New Hampshire, vol. 3, page 259.)

The supply of kitchen utensils was very small. In some cases the whole family would eat their bean porridge, hasty pudding and other food from a single dish, often of wood, placed on a rude table, the members taking turns in using the spoons, of which there were seldom enough to go round. Noggins, pewter porringers, and the shells of gourds were used for drinking cups. At first the supply of water was brought from the spring or stream near which the cabin was placed. Afterwards a well would be dug and the water drawn by fastening a bucket to the end of a long, slender pole with a wooden spring. Later, the "well sweep" would be erected and the oaken bucket attached. As time progressed the carpenter and the brick-maker appeared in the settlement, or bricks would be made within hauling distance, and framed and finished houses could be built, when desired; but the log cabins remained for many years. Hardware was not to be had, and hinges and latches were made of wood. A heavy latch was placed on the entrance door, to be raised from the outside by a rawhide string running through the door. To fasten against intruders the string was pulled in; but this was seldom done, even at night, except in times of hostile Indians. "The latch-string out" is still one of the forms of expressing hospitality.

With the framed house came the ample brick chimney, with its huge fireplace, provided with crane and pot-hooks, its spacious oven and its safe and convenient ash-hole. The brick oven turned out its great loaves of brown bread—two-thirds rye and one-third corn meal—its "Indian" puddings with the same proportions, its earthen pots of beans and pork, its roasts of beef, fowl and mutton, its delicious mince and pumpkin pies—all put in at

night and taken out steaming hot in the morning[1]—the materials for all of which were produced on the farm, except the salt and spices, and even some of the latter, as sage, mint, carraway, coriander and some others. These delectable viands were a great accession to the cuisine, and the family had now reached a stage of luxurious living, but the butcher and the baker were still unknown. After some years they began to raise wheat, but that was a luxury, and the economical housekeeper would make the upper crust of her pies of wheat flour and the under crust of rye. From that custom came the term "upper crust" as applied to aristocratic society.

The house was provided with a cellar, a comfortable chamber, and at least two rooms on the ground floor; and a barn would be built for the stock, hay, grain and fodder. For roofs, shingles split from large pine logs, and shaved, were exceedingly durable. The old meetinghouse built in 1786, on the north side of our present Central square, was covered with such shingles by Eliphalet Briggs, and they lasted until 1853, sixty-seven years, when they were replaced with the same material by his grandson, William S. Briggs. The ample kitchen fireplace, with its glowing logs, was the only ordinary source of warmth for the whole house even in winter. The sleeping rooms would be like the frigid zone, and the children in the chamber would often feel the snow sifting in their faces during violent storms, find their beds covered with it in the morning, and have to wade through small drifts with bare feet to get to the kitchen. And as the family gathered around the rousing fire their faces would be scorched while they shivered with cold from the rear.

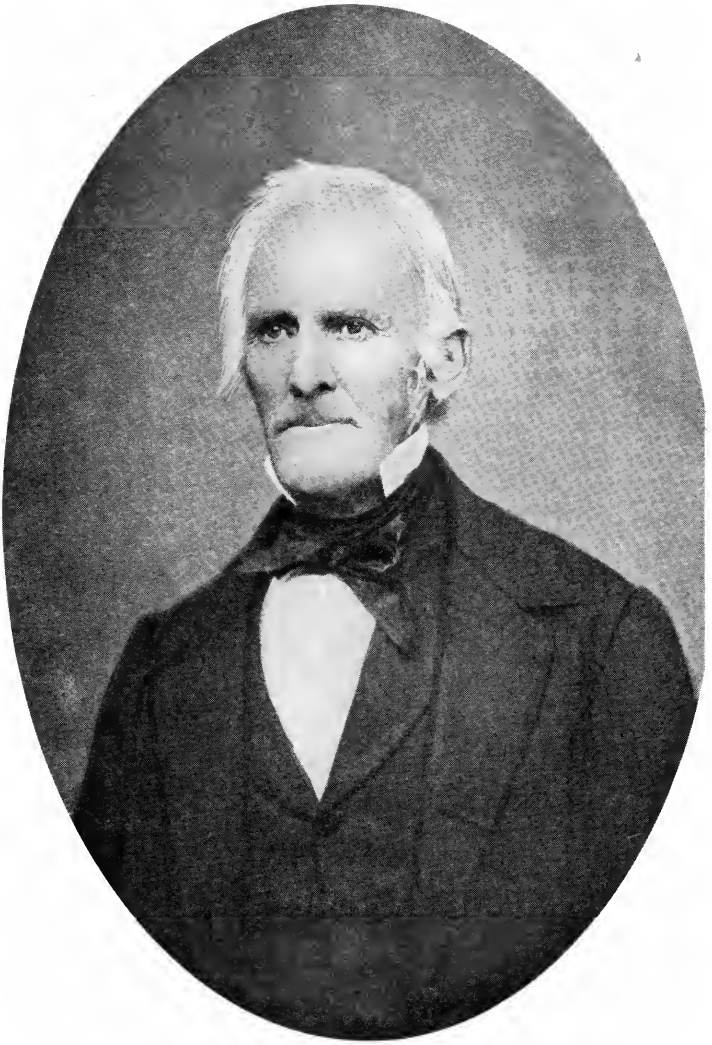
At night tapers from the yellow or "pitch" pine were used in place of candles, and the large pine knots from trees that had fallen and decayed, gathered and stored for winter use, were laid on the coals and gave sufficient light for reading. Candles could be had only when a fat beef was killed, which was not often, and oil and lamps had

[1] To avoid desecrating the Sabbath with unnecessary labor, Saturday was made the baking day of the week. The food was prepared on that day, put into the oven at night, and came out hot Sunday morning. Thus came about the Yankee custom of having baked beans and pork and brown bread for Sunday morning breakfast.

not come into general use. Candles were made by suspending half a dozen wicks at proper distances apart, on each of a number of slender rods and dipping them in tallow, in cold weather, when the tallow would adhere and quickly cool. The rods, suspended between two poles, were taken alternately, and after many immersions the "tallow dips" would be formed. When moulds could be had the tallow was sometimes run in those. Soap was made from scraps of grease cut with the lye of hardwood ashes.

Cattle and sheep ran at large in the woods, each owner having his mark or "brand," which was recorded in the town books. Hogs also ran at large, but were required to be yoked and ringed, and it was the duty of hogreeves, appointed by the towns, to enforce the law, and if necessary, themselves to put on the yokes and rings. Cattle, hogs or sheep found in fields might be put in the pound provided by the town and the owner notified and required to pay the cost. Each farmer kept at least a few sheep and raised his own wool for family use. The sheep were sheared at the proper season and the wool stored in the chamber. When the women were ready for the work the wool was "sorted"—the fine from the coarse—scoured, carded by hand into rolls a foot and a half to two feet long and half an inch or more in diameter,[1] and spun into yarn. Wool was spun on a large wheel, turned by hand, the spinner walking back and forth to draw and renew her thread. The speed of the twist was produced and regulated by a band from the rim of the large wheel, turning a small one in the "wheel head," which carried the spindle. Azel Wilder in his time made all the wheel-heads for this part of the country and shipped many to distant parts. For evening work, the large pine-knot already mentioned was laid on the fire and the wheel so placed that as the spinner drew her thread from the spindle it came directly between her eyes and the flame of the burning

[1] Towards the close of the 18th century machine cards were invented—wire teeth set in leather, as in the hand cards, and fastened on cylinders which were propelled by water power—and people sent their wool to be carded. Previous to that hand cards had been used from time immemorial. In 1778 the legislature offered a bounty of two hundred pounds for 2,000 wool cards to be made within the state.



AZEL WILDER.

knot, which gave her an excellent light.[1] The yarn was knitted into stockings, mittens and other articles, and woven into cloth for the clothing and bedclothing of the family. Cattle's hair from the tanneries was sometimes spun and woven into bed coverings.

Some of the woolen yarn was dyed, and the indigo blue dye-pot stood in the chimney corner, always ready for use, potent with its vile odors whenever it was stirred. Other dyes were used also, as the bark of the butternut tree, the sumac, the golden-rod, and other plants, gathered from the fields. Indigo dye mixed with the flowers of golden-rod and alum made green. Sassafras was used for yellow and orange. Pokeberry, boiled with alum, made crimson. Sorrel with logwood and copperas made black.

Flax was raised for the family linen. When matured it was pulled up by the roots and laid on the ground in gavels to "rot"—so that the woody part of the stock would separate from the fibre—then bound in bundles, and stored in the barn. The winter's work of the farmer was to break his flax with a "brake," "swingle" it on a "swingling board" with a "swingling knife"—a two edged, wooden sword—"hetchel" it (hatchel or heckle) ready for spinning; and to thresh his grain with a "flail." Swingling the flax must be done on a clear, sunny day.

The linen was spun on a "foot-wheel," the long, silken, combed fibres of the flax wound on a distaff, and carefully fed through a socket to the spindle, which was turned by bands, the power furnished by the foot, the spinner sitting. The Scotch Irish who settled Londonderry introduced their method of making linen and gave an impulse to that industry in New England. From the spindle the yarn was reeled off into knots and skeins. The reel was made to take on seventy-two inches in length at each revolution, and forty such threads made a knot; and seven knots of woolen yarn, or fourteen of linen, made a skein. The hand-reel for woolen yarn was called a "niddy-noddy." Linen thread was wound off on a clock-reel which counted and ticked off the exact number of strands for a knot.

[1] Many a time has the writer brought the knots from the pasture for his sainted mother, and lain on the floor reading by the same light that enabled her to draw her threads to perfection.

Spinning four skeins of woolen yarn—the spinner carding the wool herself—or two of linen, made a day's work, the pay for which in the early days of Keene was fourpence ha' penny (six and a quarter cents) and later sixpence. By the week, the pay was fifty cents. For common labor, men were paid from one shilling sixpence to two shillings a day.

All farmers' and mechanics' daughters learned to spin and weave, and they usually made their own marriage outfit. The loom was set up in the unfinished chamber, the yarn woven into cloth, the cloth sent to the clothier to be fulled, dyed, "finished" and pressed; and the tailoress —sometimes the tailor—went from house to house, to make up the garments for the family. There were regular prices for a day's work at weaving, varying with the width and kind of cloth woven.

"Leather breeches," of deer or sheep skin, sometimes of moose, were much worn by men for heavy work, as were leathern aprons of the same. In the same way the women used the strong, coarse cloth made of the combings of flax, called tow. Calico was beyond their means, selling, in 1788, at sixty-two and one-half cents a yard. The Scotch Irish of Londonderry brought with them also the art of making "striped frocking;" and it became an article of universal wear for farmers and laboring men, made in nearly every family. Straw braiding was also a profitable industry for women.

Farmers' daughters went out to serve as "help" to their more wealthy neighbors, or in case of sickness, or where there were no daughters in the family. And the women's work was not only spinning, weaving, making butter and cheese, and general housework, but they milked the cows—sometimes while the men watched with loaded gun to protect them from the lurking savage—fed the hogs and the poultry, and gathered the vegetables for the table; and they were fortunate if they had wood prepared for their kitchen fires. During the Revolutionary war, the women took almost the whole care of the farm and stock, and performed the labors of the field. The cooking was done by the open fire, with the aid of the brick oven,

supplemented in the later years with the bake-kettle. When that was lacking, the cake was often baked on the hot stones of the hearth, and potatoes were roasted in the hot ashes. Meat was roasted by being hung before the fire and kept constantly turning. Stoves did not come into general use until near the middle of the 19th century.

The farmer had almost nothing to buy Nearly everything needed in the family was raised on the farm. Almost the only article of food purchased was salt fish, brought from the seaboard. His crops from his fresh, unworn soil were abundant and the surplus sold for good prices. Potatoes often yielded 400 bushels to the acre—even as late as 1840. After some years of industry and frugality many farmers attained comparative affluence.

During the later years of the 18th and the earlier ones of the 19th century, when snow covered the ground in winter all the roads to Boston would be lively with the teams of the farmers, carrying their produce to market. Some would go with a pair, some with a single horse, and some with oxen, loaded with pork, butter, cheese, poultry and other produce. The larger crops of rye, corn, oats and barley and wool were usually disposed of at home, and cattle and sheep were driven to market. Each farmer would carry his own provender and a large box of luncheon from home; and the tavern-keepers recognized the custom and provided such other entertainment as was needed. The return freight would be salt, molasses, a few gallons of the indispensable rum, a little salt fish, a little tobacco, a few spices, a little tea, and a few yards of dress goods and ribbons for the wife and daughters; and the arrival home of the thrifty farmer brought joy to the whole household.

Many of those primitive homes, though bare of ornament and meagre in outfit, were lovely and picturesque. As cold weather came on the roaring fire of the huge logs on the hearth shed a glow of light and heat through the ample kitchen. That fire was never allowed to go out. A log or large brand was buried in the embers each night, for a bed of coals the next morning. If by any chance the fire was lost, coals had to be brought from the neighbors,

perhaps over long distances, or rekindled with the tinder-box—but that was now getting out of date, and was seldom in condition for use. Fire was sometimes kindled by flashing powder in a flint-lock gun. Hunters often started fires in that way

The kitchen was also the sleeping apartment of the farmer and his wife, the bed standing in one corner, with the wheel, or sometimes, in cold weather, the loom,[1] in the opposite corner. At the fireside stood the old "settle," and in an aperture in the chimney left for the purpose, or on a convenient shelf, were the pipes and tobacco, and the farmer and his wife would sit down at a leisure hour and enjoy a comfortable smoke together; and the excellent tobacco of those days gave a delightful perfume to the whole house. Very few young women used tobacco, but many fell into the habit in their later years. On the side opposite the fire stood the "dresser," bright with its polished pewter and possibly a few pieces of china or earthen ware, the plates and platters—some of wood—set up on edge, like a small army making the most of its numbers in the face of a more powerful enemy. When boards were laid for floors they were often kept in immaculate whiteness by scouring, or covered with clean, white sand, over which the birch broom would be drawn in various ways to make graceful and artistic designs. The broom was made by cutting a yellow birch sapling about three inches in diameter, four to five feet long, taking off the bark of about a foot of the upper end, then peeling that end into thin, narrow strips for the brush, and using the other end, shaved down, for the handle. Along the walls of the cabin hung crook-neck squashes and festoons of red peppers and apples on strings, the latter "quartered and cored," while on poles overhead were rings cut from the yellow pumpkin, all drying for winter use. The almanac, dividing with the Bible the honor of furnishing the literature of the family, and relied upon almost superstitiously for prognostications of weather, hung by the oven door. A sun-dial on a southern window-sill, or guesses by the

[1] "The loom of the same pattern as that shown in Giotto's frescoes in 1335, was used here in New England—had been for seven centuries without change," (Home Life in Colonial Days, page 213.)

position of the sun by day and the moon and stars by night, supplied the place of a clock, and were sufficient for all practical purposes. Evening gatherings were appointed "at early candle lighting."

In those times, church and state were united. The church was sustained by the whole community under the management of the political machinery of the state and town, a tax for its support being laid on each property holder. One of the conditions of a grant of a township by Massachusetts, as in the case of this town, was that a suitable meetinghouse should be built and a "learned and orthodox minister settled in such town within five years." And the charter of Keene from Gov. Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire required that there should be set apart "One Sixty forth Parte of the Said Tract for the first Settled Minister of the Gospel in S^{d} Town" and "One Sixty forth Parte of the said Tract for A Glebe for the Church of England, as by Law Established." One sixty-fourth part was 394½ acres. The first meetinghouse in every case was a plain building, like a barn, without finish, and the men sat on one side and the women on the other. There were no means of warming it in winter, yet every one was required to "go to meeting," though thinly clad and poorly shod, and remain through two long services, each sermon at least an hour long—dwelling chiefly on arguments upon abstract theology, the terrors of an angry God, and the horrors of eternal punishment—with one short and one very long prayer to each service.

One of the loveliest of her sex has told her experience in those days. Her father lived three miles from the meetinghouse and had nine children. On Sunday morning in winter, he would yoke his oxen to the sled, on which he would have a few boards, put on a chair for "mother," take blankets and bed-coverings in which the children cuddled down on the boards, drive three miles to meeting, stay through both services and an hour's intermission, and then drive home through the snow to a cold house, sometimes a furious storm coming on, in the meantime. She said her feet were cold ever afterwards. Women sometimes carried heated stones for their hands and feet, and later,

foot-stoves were used, filled at the start with hot coals and replenished for the ride home at the house of a friend near the meetinghouse. It was thought essential that a child should be baptised soon after birth, and babies were sometimes taken to those cold houses for baptism before they were a week old.

"A very large proportion of the persons who usually attended church, or meeting, as it is called, came from Ash Swamp and the hills in the West part of the town, at considerable distances. It was not convenient for these persons to return during the intermission, and it was the practice of those persons living in the vicinity of the meeting-house to throw open their doors for the accommodation of such, during the cold weather, when it was inconvenient to remain in the meeting-house. This weekly communication of the inhabitants of the village with those residing at a distance, if it did not tend to their religious improvement, was well calculated to cultivate the social virtues, to make the members of the parish better acquainted with each other, and to give additional interest to the usual exercises of the Sabbath."

(Annals, page 103.)

In summer all walked to meeting, or, if a horse was owned, the man would take his wife on a pillion behind him, and the children walked, barefooted, the older girls carrying their stockings and shoes and putting them on just before they arrived. The minister was regarded as a superior and sanctified being, and many a child, innocently judging from the remarks of its elders, believed him to be God himself. At the close of the services, the congregation would rise and stand while he passed out through the main aisle.

When the second and larger meetinghouse was built, though still severely plain and devoid of warmth and ornament, the wealthy and prominent citizens were allowed to select places and build their pews somewhat according to rank, and those exhibitions of grades and relative superiority caused many heartburnings and jealousies. Behind the meetinghouse, stood a long row of sheds, where scores of horses were sheltered and the less devout men gathered at noon for their weekly chat.

"Deacons' seats" were built at the base of the high pulpit, facing the congregation; those for negroes, boys

without parents and irresponsible persons at the rear, in a corner, or in the gallery. Several slaves were owned in Keene during the first years of its settlement and they were allowed seats apart. The tithingmen, chosen by the town from among its first citizens, and sworn to the performance of their duties, with long staves, sometimes with crooks like a shepherd's, took position overlooking the whole congregation, or walked the aisles, to preserve order and keep the overworked, drowsy ones awake. It was also a part of their duty to see that the laws requiring all to attend meeting were enforced.

The singing was performed by the reading of a line of a hymn by the minister or the leader—who gave the key note with his pitch pipe—and the choir, from its repertoire of half a dozen tunes, or the congregation, singing it after him; then taking the next line in the same way. This method was abolished in Keene in 1780, by vote of the town.

Sunday began at sunset on Saturday night and ended at sunset Sunday night, and that custom continued till about 1820 to 1830. The observance of the Sabbath was very strict. "A luckless maid-servant of Plymouth, who in the early days smiled in church, was threatened with banishment as a vagabond." Innholders were subject to fine for allowing "any person to drink to drunkenness or excess in his or her house on Lord's-day." "About 1750 the owner of the first chaise that appeared in Norwich, Conn., was fined for riding in it to church;" and in the other colonies, in the middle of that century, travelling on Sunday was punished by fines. But all must go to meeting, whatever the distance or the weather.

The sanctity of the Sabbath was so pervasive that even the dogs and the horses knew when the day came. The faithful and intelligent dog never failed to go with the family on other days, but no well-brought-up Puritan canine attempted to do so when the members started off on Sunday morning, dressed for "meeting." It is a tradition among the descendants of Lieut. James Wright, one of the early settlers, who lived where his grandson, George K. Wright, now does, (1900), that he always rode his

horse to meeting on Sunday; that one Sunday morning he sent some one to bring the horse from the pasture, but he could not be found; that thereupon the lieutenant walked to meeting; and that when he arrived he found the faithful animal standing quietly in his master's shed. The family of Mr. Timothy Colony attended the church at West Keene. "One Sunday morning the horse, ready harnessed, stood at the door, the family was a little behind time, and at the ringing of the bell the animal started, and trotted to the church door, leaving the family to walk." (J. D. Colony.)

During the Indian wars every man went to meeting armed, as he did to work in the fields, including the minister himself. A sentinel was placed at the door, and sometimes pickets at a distance.

Puritan morals frowned on amusements generally. Dancing, card-playing and theatre-going were considered abominations. Almost the only public and secular intercourse the people had was that intervening between the solemn services of the sanctuary, when they caught a few moments for gossip. But they were inclined to sociability, and gradually the taut lines of discipline were broken, and dancing and other amusements came in, with a greater tendency to looseness as a reaction from the unnatural tension. Kitchen junkets became frequent.

Wrestling was the favorite amusement of the men and boys, and professionals went from one town to another for matches on public days. After the Revolution, "court days" were very attractive for public gatherings. The raising of a house or other large building was always a time for unbounded hilarity; and accidents sometimes happened in consequence. At the raising of a meeting-house it was the custom for the town to provide a barrel of rum and plenty of food, men skilled in the business were hired from "down country," and the frolic lasted two days or more. When the large old meetinghouse in Packersfield was raised, the town sent a committee to Col. Bellows, at Walpole, for a barrel of rum, and it was hauled across the country on a horse-barrow. It was a common thing at such times for excellent citizens to be assisted to their

homes by the soberer ones, and no disgrace attached to them in consequence. Ardent spirits were considered indispensable to proper hospitality and enjoyment, and in bracing the system against exposure and hardship. Every family kept and used them. Callers were invariably treated with them, and there was special generosity of that kind when the minister called. The ordination of ministers, the dedication of meetinghouses, and even funerals, were made occasions of feasting, and great freedom in those indulgences. At one funeral of a notable person, "a strong sling of rum, sugar and water was prepared in a large tub, from which all present were invited to help themselves." When the temperance movement had abolished the custom, one good old patriarch said, with much bitterness, "Temperance has done for funerals." Very early the custom prevailed of furnishing all the guests at funerals with gloves. Later it was confined to the bearers.[1] There were no hearses, and the bearers, eight to sixteen, alternating by fours, carried the bier—often a rudely constructed one—on their shoulders.

The desire for social intercourse often led women to take a foot-wheel on a horse, sometimes with a baby besides, and go to a neighbor's to spend the day, industriously improving the time with hand, foot and tongue.

Youthful marriages and large families prevailed, and girls often became wives at the age of sixteen or seventeen. Bachelors were frowned upon, "old maid" was a term of ridicule and reproach, and few of either sex remained single. The banns were "published" for three weeks previous to the wedding by posting at the meetinghouse door, or by being "cried" in open meeting, three Sundays in succession. Weddings corresponded to the style of living, otherwise they were not materially different from those of the present day; but "fixing" to be married was an entirely different affair. Soon after the engagement the young woman bought her wheels and began to spin and weave her linen and flannels. Then came the quiltings—

[1] When that custom ceased, it is related that at a funeral where negroes were employed as bearers, as they often were when there were slaves, one of them who had not been provided with gloves as he expected, turned to his neighbor and inquired, "Sambo, you got glove?" "No." "Cæsar, you got glove?" "No." "Well den, fring 'e down, let 'e go hisself."

jolly frolics at which the women and girls did the work in the afternoon and the young men came in the evening for the dancing, where that was permitted, games, and to "beau" their sweethearts home. In going to parties at a distance the young man took his best girl on the horse behind him, but she was expected to provide her own pillion. Each daughter was furnished with at least one fine feather bed, the feathers picked from the live geese on the farm.

Huskings were delightful festivities, closing with a dance and a supper of mince and pumpkin pies, "nut-cakes" (doughnuts), cheese, apples and cider, and even these were sometimes preceded by roast turkey. A red ear husked by a young man entitled him to go the rounds with kisses, and one husked by a girl gave her the right to kiss the lad of her choice—or, if her courage failed her, be kissed by every lad present.

As the thrifty young orchard came to bearing, cider was the common drink, taking the place of beer in Germany and wine in France. Its market value was about fifty cents a barrel. Farmers put ten, twenty and even fifty barrels in the cellar for the year's supply of their large families. "One village of forty families in Massachusetts made 3,000 barrels in 1721." Charles Francis Adams tells us that "to the end of John Adams's life a large tankard of hard cider was his morning draught before breakfast."

To show how some families lived, the statement has been made that, in 1755, when Col. Benjamin Bellows, of Walpole, repelled the attack of the Indians, he had thirty men in his employ; and that many years afterwards his family was so large that he killed an ox or a cow every week and put down twenty barrels of pork and 400 barrels of cider for his year's supply, and other things in proportion. He ran boats to Hartford and Windsor, Conn., and brought up iron for his blacksmith and supplies for himself and the country around.

The first schools were very primitive affairs. Little could be learned in them in consequence of the lack of text-books and competent teachers, and the "three Rs"

constituted the entire curriculum. Before schoolhouses were built, the schools were taught in unoccupied log-houses, barns or other buildings. The first school in Keene of which we have any record was in 1764, and the town voted six pounds sterling for its support.

As the settlements grew the children increased rapidly in numbers, the schools were large and competent teachers came to the front. In winter the teachers were men and the schools were effective and practical, so far as they went. Having but few branches of study to engage their attention, and but short time for those, the pupils applied themselves closely, and many excellent readers, arithmeticians and chirographers received all their instruction in those schools of only a few weeks in the year. A handsome handwriting was an accomplishment and was acquired by many. The reading books were the Testament, New England primer, and, in some places, the psalter. Dilworth's spelling-book was published in England in 1740, and was used here about 1770, and Kneeland's spelling-book about 1800; but there were no textbooks on arithmetic, the teacher "setting sums" for the pupils to work out. Noah Webster's spelling book and Morse's geography appeared soon after the Revolution; and a little later, Pike's arithmetic, by Nicholas Pike of Somersworth, N. H., followed by the "Scholar's Arithmetic," by Dr. Daniel Adams of Leominster, Mass., afterwards of Keene, where he published his "Adams' New Arithmetic."

The style of dress for men was quaint and elaborate; that for women changeable, but much less so than at the present time. Till as late as about 1800, men wore "cocked hats"—the broad brim turned up to the crown in three places;—shirts with ruffles at the bosom and wrists, long waistcoats covering the hips, often very handsomely embroidered; coats made large and long, usually of blue, with deep facings of buff, and metal buttons; "short-clothes" with knee-buckles and long hose and low shoes with large buckles covering the instep; and one handsome coat was sometimes handed down from father to son with the farm and the stock. In full dress, gentlemen wore

swords, and their hose were of white or black silk. Military officers wore boots with white tops and spurs, even at balls. The same kind of boot was also worn at times by civilians. The warm underclothing of the present day was unknown, and women wore low, thin shoes, even in winter; and consumption carried off a larger proportion of victims than now. Rubber boots and shoes were unknown, and so were dry feet, except in dry weather or within doors. Umbrellas appeared in Boston in 1768, but did not come into general use until the last of that century.

The code of criminal law was strict and severe. In very early times not only murder, but treason, arson, rape, adultery, burglary, robbery and grand larceny were punished with death. Imprisonment for debt, even when contracted for food in cases of sickness and distress, was common, and that law continued in force in this state until within a few years. Whipping, branding, the pillory and the stocks were common methods of punishment. Men still living remember to have seen the old stocks used here in Keene, stored in the horsesheds in rear of the old meeting-house. For what would now be considered trivial offences, men were thrown into jail; but the limits of the "jail yard" were often prescribed, except for criminals, sometimes extending a certain number of rods, sometimes including the whole village or town. In very early times, scolds were punished by ducking, with an apparatus contrived for the purpose, or by wearing split sticks on their tongues. But there was comparatively little crime among pioneers. After the danger from savages had passed, doors and windows were seldom fastened, day or night. The roads were safe, and women and girls could travel alone through the woods, without danger of being molested.

Tramps were scarcely known. The only paupers were the demented, and the care of those was let out to the lowest bidder. In some towns this odious practice was aggravated by the custom of furnishing liquor at such "vendues," at the expense of the town, to incite the bidders to run the price down to the lowest possible point, thus leaving the poor in the hands of those least suited to have the care of them. By a law passed in 1719, any

person residing in a town three months without being warned to depart by the selectmen or constable became an "inhabitant" of that town, which made the town liable for his support in case he was at any time unable to support himself. Under that law it was the custom of the towns to warn nearly every new comer to depart, and many who afterwards became prominent citizens were thus warned. If they neglected, or refused, to heed the warning, the law provided that they might be taken by the selectmen, or constable, and delivered to a proper officer of some other town, and that officer might pass them on to another, until they reached the place of their legal residence. At the annual meeting in Keene, in 1781, the town "voted to Israel Houghton Thirty pounds Like money (old Continental currency) for his services carrying patte Towzer out of Town;" and many such votes are recorded in the old town books. That law continued in force for more than one hundred years.

The usual method of travelling was on horseback, the minister and doctor making their visits in that way, the latter carrying his instruments and medicines in capacious saddlebags. When Keene was first settled, the price of a physician's visit was sixpence (eight cents), and only eightpence at the time of the Revolution.

Dentistry was unknown till the beginning of the nineteenth century. If a tooth offended, the sufferer went to the nearest physician, or to the minister, the barber, the blacksmith, or other ingenious person, who wrenched it out with a "turnkey."

Making salts for pot and pearl ashes was an important industry. Potash-kettles were brought from Boston, and the lye of hard wood ashes was boiled down till it "grained," like sugar. This product sold readily for cash or its equivalent in goods. Roasting the salts in an oven produced potash, and another similar purifying process made pearlash. There were several manufactories of pot and pearl ashes in town, towards the close of the eighteenth century.

Ploughs for breaking up the ground among the stumps and roots had to be made very strong and heavy, and,

except the coulter, were almost wholly of wood—white oak or walnut.

The first plough used in Stoddard was carried there by John Taggart, from Peterboro, on his shoulder, and Mrs. Taggart carried a foot spinning-wheel at the same time. (History of Stoddard.)

As a rule, the pioneers here described, and their wives and the large families of girls and boys reared in those primitive homes, were among the purest and noblest of men and women. Though parents were austere and apparently unsympathetic,[1] and friends seemed cool and indifferent, "their hearts were warm under a stern exterior;" their Puritan principles were of the highest, and their industry, frugality and integrity made them the best of citizens; and most of those homes were pure fountains whence flowed the streams that formed the mighty rivers of the states and the nation. From such homes came the men, always nobly seconded by the women, who beat back the savages; subdued the forests; carried on the affairs of each little independent government, the town; organized the states; won their separation from Great Britain, and laid the foundations of this grand republic.

[1] "Doubtless mothers were as fond of their children as those of the present day, but they seldom or never kissed them." (Prof. Silliman's Autobiography.)

CHAPTER XIII.

TOWN AFFAIRS.

1801—1810.

The third New Hampshire turnpike had been chartered by the legislature in December, 1799, to run from Bellows Falls (afterwards extended to Charlestown) through Walpole, Keene, Marlboro, Jaffrey and New Ipswich on the route to Boston. The turnpike corporation held its first meeting at the tavern of Major Wm. Todd, in Keene, in February, 1800, and it began to build its road that year. The "pike" came over the hills by what is now known as the "Old Walpole road," and opened Court street nearly on its present line; but did not enter Central square in a straight course, curving to the west, instead, at the lower end, leaving the old courthouse on its east side as already described, in 1795. Samuel West, a young lawyer who had recently come to town, was clerk, and Daniel Newcomb treasurer of the corporation; and much of the stock was owned in Keene.

The mails from Boston now came by this route to Keene, and thence to Chesterfield and Brattleboro, once a week and return; leaving Boston Tuesday at 9 a. m., arriving at Brattleboro, Thursday, at 7 p. m.; leaving Brattleboro Friday at 2 p. m., arriving at Boston, Monday, at 3 p. m.

The 4th of July, 1801, was celebrated again this year. The exercises were similar to those of two years previous, and the same military companies did escort duty. Samuel West, Esq., delivered the oration.

Rev. Edward Sprague, at that time the settled minister of Dublin, bought a house on Pleasant street, where the Alfred Colony house now stands, and came to Keene to live, although still the minister of Dublin. He was noted for his eccentricities, and anecdotes of "Parson Sprague" circulated far and wide. He was wealthy, rode in a four-horse

coach, and having money to invest he bought farms in Keene which he rented "at the halves;" but he said afterwards that his half never grew. Disappointed in his hopes of improving his health and fortune he returned to Dublin and died there—killed by being thrown from his carriage at the close of a wedding ceremony—but his widow continued to reside in Keene, and died here in 1818.

In October, 1801, the town "Voted that the Grammar School master shall keep a School in each School district in proportion to the valuation of each School district." Samuel Prescott, a graduate of Harvard college, taught the schools for one year.

The death of Israel Houghton, one of the early settlers, and that of Major Josiah Willard, for many years a prominent citizen, occurred this year. Major Willard was sixty-four years old, and was buried with Masonic honors.

In 1802, John Wood came from Concord, Mass., to Keene, and entered into partnership with Daniel Watson. The next year James Mann bought out his partner, Moses Johnson, and the firm of Watson, Mann & Wood was formed, and for years they did a large business in general merchandise and saddlery in the Johnson & Mann store and Watson's shop. It was the custom for all grocers to sell spirituous liquors, and this firm advertised for fifty bushels of black cherries to make cherry rum.

Johnson continued to make pot and pearl ashes; took in Aaron Seamans as a partner in his "ginn distillery;" advertised to pay cash for rye and barley; claimed to have the best malt-house in the country, and warranted his "ginn" to be equal to any imported. The distillery was near the potash works, back of Castle street, and the ruins of those buildings gave the name to that street.

Joseph Dorr, in the old wooden store on the corner, advertised, along with his goods, tickets for sale in the "South Hadley Canal Lottery,"—the drawing to take place in the "Old State House, Boston." Dorr and Adin Holbrook had an oil-mill just below the saw mill on the "Holbrook farm," on the old Surry road, the foundations of which can still be seen, and advertised at one time for 10,000 bushels of flax seed.

The first evening school in Keene was taught in the autumn of this year, 1802, in the hall of "Wells's Inn," previously Bullard's Coffee House.

Dr. Daniel Adams resigned the office of postmaster and John G. Bond was appointed. He removed the office to his store on the east side of the Square.

The Branch Road and Bridge Corporation, sometimes called the Fitzwilliam turnpike, from Keene through Troy to Fitzwilliam, organized and began to build its road in 1803, opening a new line to Boston. Three years were required for its completion. With the aid of $400, voted by the town for that purpose, it built the first permanent bridge across the branch at the lower end of Main street; and it opened the direct road to Swanzey Factory and thence up the valley to Troy. In 1805 this line was extended north by the construction of the "Cheshire Turnpike" from Keene (by the old road, east side of the river) through Surry, passing the Holbrook tavern, and over the hills to Drewsville and Charlestown. These two corporations made connection at Keene, crossing the third New Hampshire turnpike and creating a lively competition for the travel to and from Boston.

In December, 1803, Mr. Dearborn Emerson put a line of stages on the third turnpike route, from Boston through Concord, Groton, New Ipswich, Jaffrey, Marlboro and Keene to Walpole, running twice a week and connecting at Walpole with mail stages beyond. He also did an express business. Previous to this the fare to Boston had been, first $6.00, then $5.00, and now it was reduced to $4.50.

The roads at that time, made in the rich, new soil, were very soft and almost impassable when much rain had fallen. A plank walk had been laid the whole length of Pleasant street, from the meetinghouse to Luther Smith's mills, paid for by individuals.[1] It was so great an improvement over the road and so attractive to horsemen that the town clerk, Noah Cooke, published a notice forbidding people to ride or lead horses thereon.

In August, two little sisters, Mary and Roxana,

[1] Handsome pine planks were used, which cost $4.00 per M.

daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Phineas Wright, mistaking floating moss for solid earth, were drowned in the Ashuelot river, and the whole town mourned their loss.

The winter of 1803–4 was not an open one. On the 3d of March the snow was reported to be "above four feet deep where it is not drifted."

At the annual meeting this year, the time for which had been changed by the legislature from the first to the second Tuesday in March, the town voted to raise the sum of sixty dollars for the purpose of instructing persons to sing.

The Cheshire bank had been chartered in December, 1803, and in May following the corporation organized by the choice of Daniel Newcomb, Noah Cooke, John G. Bond, Joseph Dorr, Foster Alexander, Jonathan Robinson and James Mann directors; with Daniel Newcomb president and Elijah Dunbar cashier. They immediately put up a brick building, two stories high, "on the spot now covered, or partly covered, by the Northeast corner of the Railroad Passenger Station." (Annals, page 91.) The upper story was a hall, sometimes used for schools. Two years later Mr. Dunbar resigned and Albe Cady was chosen cashier and held that position for about seven years.

The Fourth of July was celebrated in 1804. Two companies of militia, Captains Chase and Metcalf, escorted a procession to the meetinghouse, where prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Hall, the Declaration of Independence read by Noah Cooke, Esq., and an oration delivered by young Phineas Cooke, the schoolmaster.

Joseph Dorr had taken command of the cavalry company belonging to the regiment, enlisted from Keene and other towns, reorganized it, named it the Ashuelot Cavalry, and had brought it up to a state of discipline and efficiency which placed it at the head of the cavalry in the state. On his return from commencement at Dartmouth college, in September, Gov. John Taylor Gilman spent the night in Keene. The next day he was escorted on his way as far as Marlboro by Capt. Dorr with the Keene contingent of his company in full uniform.

In business, the firm of Watson, Mann & Wood had now been succeeded by that of Mann & Wood; John G.

AARON SEAMANS'S RESIDENCE, NOW 72 SCHOOL STREET. BUILT 1804.

Bond, the postmaster, continued the business of Allen & Bond on the east side of the Square; Joseph Dorr on the corner had sold out to Dr. James H. Bradford, who removed from the opposite side of Main street and added drugs and medicines. Dr. Bradford had married Sarah, youngest daughter of Alexander Ralston. Aaron Seamans, partner of Moses Johnson in the distillery, joined Ebenezer Daniels in tanning, currying and morocco-dressing, with a tannery in rear of the present Eagle Hotel. They did an extensive business, and Daniels had a large shoe manufactory under the Masonic hall. Seamans built the large square house on School street (No. 72), now the residence of Herbert C. Aldrich (1900), and lived there. Hale & Kise, Moses H. Hale and Zebadiah Kise, came from Chelmsford, Mass., bought Luther Smith's mills on Ashuelot river and added machinery for picking and carding wool. Capt. William Wyman, a "mariner," son of Col. Isaac Wyman, returned to Keene about this time, 1804, built the brick store now the south end of the Eagle Hotel, and Wyman & Chapman (Daniel) opened it with a general assortment of goods. For many years at this time Daniel Webster, a relative of the great Daniel, was a brazier and bell-founder in Keene, made sleigh-bells and metallic utensils and supplied town authorities with sealed weights and measures. He was sealer of weights and measures for this town at the time of his death, in 1812.

The sum raised by the town for schools, and also that for the repairs of highways and bridges, had stood for several years at $666.66. In 1805 it was increased to $700 for schools and $1,000 for highways and bridges.

The corn crop had been short the preceding year and in 1805 corn sold in Keene at "ten shillings per bushel." A drought followed during this season, no rain falling from the 1st of June till past the 20th of July; and in August there was great damage from forest fires.

At the regimental muster here in September the Keene Light Infantry appeared, reorganized, with full ranks, new and handsome uniforms and an elegant standard, commanded by Capt. Samuel Dinsmoor, and began its long and brilliant career as one of the finest companies of

militia in the state. The emulation and rivalry between it and the Westmoreland Light Infantry, of the same regiment, which afterwards ran very near the verge of collision and kept both up to the highest point of effectiveness, began at this time. There were also two companies of cavalry in the regiment, the Ashuelot Cavalry being commanded by Capt. James H. Bradford, already mentioned. There were also the Walpole Artillery and the militia companies of the line. The muster closed with a sham fight, in which one detachment of the troops represented Indians.

There was extreme cold weather in January, 1806, the mercury sinking on the 16th to 34° and on the 18th to 38° below zero. On the 16th of June there was a total eclipse of the sun, "the most striking and impressive phenomenon which the present generation has witnessed." Candles had to be lighted, fowls went to roost and "the day was converted into night and darkness." It was remembered and talked about for half a century as the "dark day."

The Sentinel removed to the second floor of the store Moses Johnson had built, a few rods south of its former location, "opposite the Bank"—where Gurnsey's building now stands. In the northwest lower room Mr. Prentiss had his bookstore, and a circulating library which he had started the year previous; "terms: six cents for a 12 mo. vol. for one week and two cents a day after one week."

During this season, 1806, Luther Smith built the main, or north part of the present Eagle Hotel, two stories high. There was a space, used for a driveway to the stables, between that building and Capt. Wyman's store, which was filled many years later, and the store then became a part of the hotel. Horace Wells, who had succeeded his father, Thomas Wells, in the Bullard Coffee House, and had removed from that house to the Ralston tavern, now left the latter and took the new hotel, and was succeeded in the Ralston by Gilbert Mellen. Two years later, however, he sold to Benoni Shirtliff and returned to the Ralston. Mr. Shirtliff came from Marlboro, and kept the new hotel for many years. On the west side of that street Dr. Charles Blake and Elisha Hunt opened an apothecary

shop with a large stock of patent medicines, paints, liquors, etc.; Willard & Ames (continuing the former firm of Major Josiah Willard and Silas Ames) carried on the saddlers' and carriage-trimming business near them; and Samuel Euers came to town that spring and set up the business of coach and chaise making. James Wells had a hat store next north of the bank, and Joseph Brown advertised: "The Old Store Replenished—Fresh Supply of Goods"—at old West Keene. Several of the merchants advertised lottery tickets for sale, among them, "Harvard College Lottery Tickets;—Highest Prize $15,000."

Thomas Baker, Esq., who for more than forty years had been a prominent man in town, died in 1806, aged seventy-six years.

It was during the summer of 1807 that outrages were committed upon American seamen by British naval officers, particularly by those of a squadron lying off Hampton Roads, which created great excitement throughout the country, and led to war between the two nations five years later. The people were so roused as to demand immediate war unless prompt satisfaction were given. All parties rallied to the support of the administration. Congress was convened and the president issued his proclamation calling for 100,000 militia to be raised immediately and held in readiness. Capt. Dinsmoor called the Keene Light Infantry together and they voted unanimously to volunteer in a body. The Ashuelot Cavalry, now under Capt. Wm. M. Bond, did the same; and fifty men of Capt. Chapman's company of infantry also volunteered. Almost the entire militia of New Hampshire offered their services. The British government disavowed the more aggravating acts of its officers and the excitement abated; but it was not extinguished until war had settled the controversy.

During a shower in July a whirlwind passed through the northern part of the village, in a northeasterly direction, laid in ruins a house and barn and unroofed a large shed on the farm of Aaron Seamans, where H. H. Barker now lives, on Castle street; prostrated fences and uprooted trees; but its path was short and narrow and no other serious damage was done.

This year, a line of mail stages began making regular trips through from Boston to Keene in one day—leaving Boston at 4 a. m. and arriving at Keene at 8 p. m.—and running through to Hanover and return three times a week.

"At the term of the Superior Court, held in Keene in October [1807], came on the trial of a prosecution instituted by the inhabitants of Walpole against certain citizens of Keene 'for taking and carrying away, in the night time, a piece of ordnance of the value of two hundred dollars, the property of said town of Walpole.'

"For the better understanding of this matter it is necessary to go back to a remote period of our history. In the early settlement of the country, on Connecticut River, four forts were erected on its banks, and each was supplied, by His Majesty the King of England, with a large iron cannon. These forts were numbered—that at Chesterfield being No. 1, that at Westmoreland No. 2, that at Walpole No. 3, and that at Charlestown No. 4. These cannons remained in those several towns, after the achievement of our independence, were prized as trophies of victory, and made to speak, in triumphant tones, on every fourth of July, and other days of public rejoicings. Their reports sounded to the inhabitants of the adjoining towns, as exulting claims to superiority, they having no such trophies to speak for them. That at Walpole was left unguarded, in the Main-street. In the spring of this year, a citizen of Keene, then a youth, but since distinguished in the service of his country, having received an elegant sword for his gallant defense, in the war of 1812, of Fort Covington, near Baltimore, arranged a party who repaired to Walpole, in the night, took possession of the cannon and brought it in triumph to Keene.

"The whole population of Walpole were indignant at being deprived, in this way, of their valued trophy, and determined to appeal to the laws to recover it. Several attempts to arrest the offenders proved abortive, but this only added to their zeal. A respectable citizen of Walpole was sent to aid the sheriff. Knowing that he, whom they most wished to secure, concealed himself, whenever apprized that the officer was visible, they lay in ambush for him in the swamps South and West of his father's residence. It happened that Dr. Adams was at this time gunning, as was his frequent habit, in the same grounds. He saw them, and knowing that they saw him, he walked hurriedly away. They followed, he hastened his walk, they theirs, until the walk became a run, and the run a race. His

knowledge of the minute topography of the place enabled him to take such direction as might best suit his purpose. Methinks I see him now, lightly springing from hassock to hassock, from turf to log, now and then looking back, with face sedate and eagle eye, to see how his pursuers sped. By turning and winding, he led them into a bog, and gained distance while they were struggling to gain firm foothold. They outran him, however, and arrested him at his door; but were soon convinced they had not caught the right man, and returned, not the less irritated, to Walpole.

"Several of the delinquents were at length arrested and brought to trial. The court (Chief Justice Smith, afterwards Governor, presiding) decided that the said cannon was not the property of the said town of Walpole, and the defendants were discharged. It was immediately drawn near the court house, loaded and fired. 'May it please your honors,' said counsellor Vose, 'the case is already reported.'"

"The irritation of the people of Walpole, at the loss of their valued trophy, or more, perhaps, at the manner in which they had been deprived of it, continued unabated; and they determined to take redress into their own hands. They had been informed that the cannon was concealed in a granary, in a back store, on the South side of West-street, near Main-street. On the evening of the fourth of July [1809], a plot was arranged to regain possession of it. A confederate (a stage-driver) was sent immediately to Keene, in a huge stage wagon, to gain information and take measures to facilitate the execution of the project. He ascertained that it was concealed in the place mentioned; bargained for some grain; and at his suggestion was allowed to take the key that he might get the grain very early in the morning, without disturbing the clerks. Returning immediately, he met on their way, a cavalcade of about thirty, mostly young men, commanded by a military officer of high rank, and made his report. They left their horses in the cross road, then fringed with bushes, leading from Court-street to Washington-street; and in a few minutes entered the granary. The first motion of the cannon, the night being still, made a terrific noise. The town bell was rung and an alarm of fire was raised. The men in the granary labored for a time without success, and almost without hope. Outside, men were seen skulking behind buildings, and flitting from corner to corner. At length, by a desperate effort, it was lifted into the wagon, and the team hurried towards Walpole. At break of day, we [they] were welcomed home by the ringing of the bell, and by the applause of a crowd awaiting in anxiety the return of their fellow-townsmen.

"In the mean time, a large number of the citizens of Keene mounted their horses and pursued the returning party; but fortunately they took the wrong road, and thus a desperate conflict was avoided. A report was current, at the time, that they took the wrong road by design; but this was pronounced a base and baseless slander.

"But the history of the King's cannon is not yet complete. It was soon afterwards furtively taken, by a body of men from Westminster, Vermont, to be used in celebrating the declaration of independence; and was retaken, on a sudden onset, by a large body of men from Walpole, the Selectmen at their head, while actually in use for that purpose. It was afterwards taken by men from Alstead; and report says that it was, after that, appropriated by an iron founder, and transmuted into implements of husbandry."

(Annals, pages 93-96.)

The Jefferson administration appointed Samuel Dinsmoor postmaster at Keene in 1808, removing John G. Bond, who was a Federalist.

In 1807 and 1808, Samuel Dinsmoor, Josiah Willard, Lockhart Willard, Joel Kingsbury (a civil engineer), and Capt. Aaron Hall were selectmen, and through their influence, chiefly, and under their direction, in 1808 the course of the third New Hampshire turnpike, where it came into the village from the north, was changed and laid out with the straight course and ample width of our present Court street. The courthouse, which stood on the northwest corner of the common, was removed to the present site of Bullard & Shedd's and B. W. Hodgkins' drug stores (1900), and the new road came into the Square, as at present, directly over its former site. A change was also made below, by the turnpike company, from the old "Boston Road" (Baker street), by opening Marlboro street from Main street as it is now, to straighten the route and shorten the distance.

Ralston & Bond (Alexander Ralston, Jr.,—succeeded by his brother James B.,—and Wm. M. Bond, who had married their sister, Nancy Ralston) had followed the elder Ralston in "the Red Store" north of the Ralston tavern. This year, 1808, they built the brick store which now forms the north part of the City Hotel, and continued in business there.

In 1806, Hatch & Hall (Daniel D. Hatch and Aaron Hall, Jr.,) had succeeded James H. Bradford in the store on the corner of Main and Pleasant streets. Hatch now retired and Hall continued the business.

The registry of deeds was kept at Walpole, and James Campbell of that town, register, advertised that he would receive deeds for record at William Pierce's tavern in Keene, during the term of court. Mr. Pierce was keeping the house formerly kept by Dr. Thomas Edwards, succeeding Elihu Holbrook.

Dea. James Lanman was keeping tavern at Mt. Pleasant;[1] Daniel Day, a veteran of the Continental army, had succeeded his father, Ebenezer Day, as innkeeper on the Cheshire turnpike, near the Surry line;[2] and the principal public house at West Keene having been sold to Major Ingersoll, Col. Abraham Wheeler opened what is still known as the Sawyer tavern, east of the mills.

Dr. John Burnell was a physician here at that time, with "rooms at Shirtliff's Coffee House," and Drs. Waterhouse, Smith and Fanchon were all residing in town.

In November, 1808, the town voted to raise $300 to fence burying grounds; and during the following season Thomas Thompson and Calvin Chapman were paid $103.83 for fencing the one near Judge Newcomb's. This appears to have been the last work done to preserve that yard, although efforts for that purpose were made many years later.

The evil effects of President Jefferson's policy of "non-intercourse and embargo" were very seriously felt at this time, 1809, particularly in this part of the country The shipping interests, which were large in New England, were ruined. Prices of imported goods became enormously high, and many articles which had come to be regarded as necessaries of life could not be had at any price. The good effects of that policy were apparent later in the impulse given to domestic manufactures. People were constrained to make for themselves articles of necessity or comfort

[1] Now known as the "Cole place," foot of Marlboro street. He had been a deacon of the Brattle Street church, Boston, and his wife was a Miss Goldthwaite, sister of Mrs. Daniel Adams of Keene.

[2] Since known as the "Carpenter place."

which they could not buy. The war which followed a few years later intensified the distress and the impulse to self-protection, and cotton, woolen and other manufactures started up in all the eastern states. That was the chief cause which led to the establishment of the glass factory in Keene, which for many years at one period was exceeding profitable to its owners. The woolen factory on West street, which has been of immense benefit to this community, was started under the same impulse, beginning in a small way and increasing to its present dimensions.

But the immediate effects of the embargo were disastrous, and the people were impatient under its restraints. Legal town meetings were called in many places, according to the custom of those times, to give expression to the sentiments of the people on questions of public policy. Such a meeting was held in Keene on the 26th of January, 1809, Lockhart Willard, moderator, "to take into consideration the present alarming condition of our country; to express our sentiments thereon; and to adopt such measures for a redress of grievances as shall be thought expedient." A long series of resolutions denouncing the policy of embargo and non-intercourse was passed and afterwards printed in full and distributed. The annual town meeting in March cast 235 votes for Jeremiah Smith, the Federal candidate for governor, to nineteen for John Langdon, the administration candidate.

The first meeting of the Keene Engine Company, called for organization by Daniel Newcomb, Elijah Dunbar and Samuel Dinsmoor was held at Pierce's tavern on the 6th of February, 1809, at 6 o'clock p. m. This was the first successful movement for the introduction of a fire engine, although an effort had been made for that purpose, and a meeting of subscribers called at Holbrook's tavern, in 1805.

Phineas Cooke taught a subscription school in Masonic hall this year; and a Mr. Durand opened a school for teaching the French language and afterwards added fencing and sword exercise.

In November, 1809, Ichabod Fisher, who had been a prominent man—town clerk for twenty-one years—died, aged eighty-one.

The threatening war kept the military spirit up to the fighting pitch, and led to changes in the militia laws, requiring every town to be constantly supplied with thirty-two pounds of powder, sixty-four pounds of musket-balls, 120 flints, three iron or tin camp-kettles to every sixty-four enrolled soldiers and other stringent provisions, with a heavy fine in each case of failure.

In October, 1810, there was a brigade muster here of the Sixth, Twelfth and Twentieth regiments. Brig. Gen. Huntley of Alstead and Maj. Gen. Whitcomb of Swanzey were the reviewing officers. The Twentieth regiment appeared with a band of fourteen pieces—the first mention of a military band in Keene. Capt. Dinsmoor had been promoted to major of the regiment and thence to quarter-master general of the state, and Aaron Hall, Jr., was now captain of the Keene Light Infantry. At the close of the muster there was a spirited sham-fight in which all the troops were engaged.

In April, 1810, Levi Newcomb, son of Hon. Daniel Newcomb, a very bright and promising young man, an undergraduate of Dartmouth college, died at Hanover, aged twenty. The sympathy of the community for Judge Newcomb and his family was profound.

The close of the first decade of the 19th century marked a decided advance in the condition of the country generally, and of Keene in many particulars. True, its population had increased by only one, and was now 1,646; but in addition to the two large brick stores, a brick hotel and a brick bank, two large wooden stores had been erected—one by Noah Cooke where E. F. Lane's upper block now stands, and another on the site of Gurnsey's block—besides several fine residences[1] of wood, and other buildings. Horses, cattle and swine still ran at large in the streets in spite of by-laws to the contrary; and 1810 was one of those years when certain of the more fastidious voters made a spasmodic, but ineffectual attempt to prevent the practice. It was not until nearly two decades more had passed that that nuisance was finally abated.

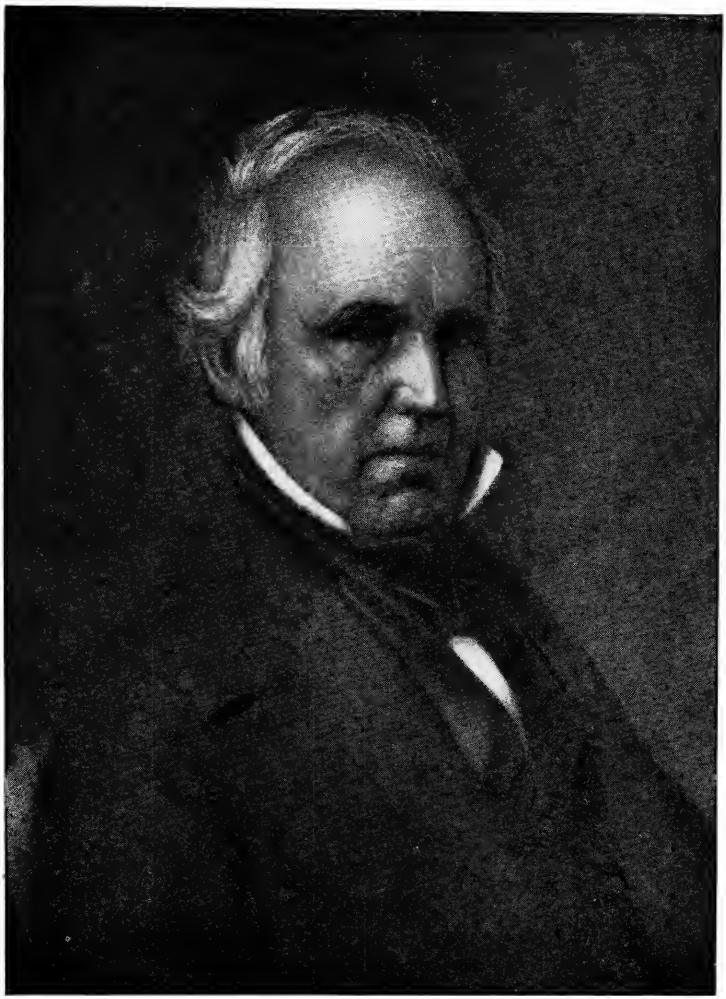
[1] One, in 1804, by Wm. Lamson on West street, still standing and occupied by his descendants; one in 1808 by John Prentiss, which gave place to the present residence of Major O. G. Dort on Court street, and others in various parts of the town.

But there was an increased air of refinement and thrift in the well-kept premises and tasteful gardens; the farms were better and more extensively cultivated, and from many of them the log-cabin had disappeared and the framed house had taken its place. Wheeled vehicles were fast coming into use, the bridle path had given place to the highway, and the subject of transportation was very generally agitated.

The Middlesex canal was so near completion in the spring of 1810 that "Canal Boats have begun to go regularly twice a week from the landing place (Alms House Wharf) in Boston to Nashua village in Dunstable. Goods and produce of every description are received there by Mr. John Lund, who forwards them by boats or delivers them to the owners." The freight from Boston to Nashua was $4.50 per ton; from Nashua to Boston $3.50. The next year canals were built around the falls of the Merrimac river so that navigation by boats was complete from Boston to Concord, N. H.

Previous to this there had been a constant succession of teams from Vermont and the Connecticut valley, many of them with six horses, travelling the great turnpikes through Keene, Jaffrey and New Ipswich to and from Boston; or by the more southern route through Fitzwilliam and Rindge. Now their course was through Dublin and Peterboro to Nashua, to reach the canal.

Changes had taken place in business in town. Abijah Foster, who, in a long term of trade and tavern keeping at West Keene, had become one of the wealthiest men in town, had sold out to Pond & Coolidge; Isaac Parker & Co. had taken the brick store of Ralston & Bond, opposite Shirtliff's tavern; John Wood continued the business of Mann & Wood, taking in Aaron Hall, Jr., from the corner store, while James Mann opened a store next south of Pierce's tavern, and was soon succeeded there by John Elliot and Shubael Butterfield; Sparhawk & Davis had succeeded John G. Bond in the store on the east side of the Square; Eliphalet Briggs had taken the cabinet shop on Prison street, just north of the meetinghouse, and carried on the business for many years afterwards. William



Amos Twitchell.

Dickinson had repaired his father's fulling-mill on the Westmoreland road, and continued the clothier's business there.

Dr. Amos Twitchell came from Marlboro early in 1810 and took rooms in the Albe Cady house, already described. Dr. Joseph Wheeler came about the same time from Westmoreland and took "the Widow Sprague's[1] house." Dr. Dan Hough came in November of the same year, 1810, and took rooms in Pierce's tavern. Soon afterwards, for about a year, he was a partner of Dr. Daniel Adams; and the next year he went into trade with Isaac Parker.

The ten highest tax-payers were William Wyman, Abijah Foster, Stephen Chase, Daniel Newcomb, Daniel Watson, Abel Blake, Noah Cooke, William Lamson, Ephraim Wright and Samuel Dinsmoor.

[1] Widow of Peleg Sprague, now the Laton Martin house.

CHAPTER XIV

WAR OF 1812.

1811—1815.

At the annual meeting in 1811 the town voted its consent "that Thomas Thompson and Thomas Thompson, junior, with their Farm now lying in Swanzey may be annexed to this Town." That farm lay on the hill southeast of South Keene, since known as the "Batcheller farm."

In 1759, as already stated, Keene granted to certain persons the right to divert the waters of the East branch into the South branch for the purpose of creating a water-power at what has since been known as Swanzey Factory village. Saw and grist mills had been operated there until 1809, when Dr. Daniel Adams bought the property for the Swanzey Factory Company, then about organizing. In June, 1810, that company was incorporated, with a capital of $40,000, for the purpose of "spinning cotton and woolen yarn or weaving the same into cloth." The incorporators were Samuel Dinsmoor, Aquilla Ramsdell, Josiah Woodward (of Roxbury), William C. Belding, John Thompson and their associates. John Elliot and Daniel D. Hatch were among the directors. In January, 1811, the corporation bought the mills and privilege and soon began making cotton yarn. The saw and grist mills and a blacksmith's shop were also operated by the company. Albe Cady was clerk, John G. Bond, treasurer, and most of the stockholders were Keene men. Power looms had not then come into use, and the yarn was taken by families—usually through merchants who held stock in the company—and woven by hand. Years afterwards Appleton & Elliot and John Elliot & Co. did a large business of that kind, and nearly all the traders in town dealt more or less in that way. Isaac Parker and his firm of Parker & Hough were largely interested. Parker had a shop at the mills for

HOUSE OF THOMAS THOMPSON. BUILT 1800.

making cotton and woolen machinery, in which he was also largely interested. In 1813, his shop, containing finished and unfinished machinery, and some of the other buildings were burned—the loss of about $3,000 falling chiefly on Capt. Parker.

After this a mill was built and furnished with machinery for dressing the yarn and weaving it into cloth; and for many years Swanzey Factory cotton was sold at the stores in Keene and elsewhere and was a favorite article of its kind.[1]

Nathan Blake, one of the first settlers of the town, the story of whose capture by the Indians has been told, died on the 4th of August, 1811, aged ninety-nine years and five months.

The state of affairs between the United States and England was rapidly approaching war. The outrageous conduct of British naval officers in impressing American seamen, capturing and confiscating our merchant vessels and annoying and insulting Americans in various ways, had become so exasperating and humiliating that it could be borne no longer. Congress was called together in November, 1811; the regular army was increased to 35,000 men; and the president was authorized to raise volunteers, to strengthen the navy and to borrow money.

While congress was still in session, our army under Gen. Harrison, sent into the Indian territory simply to negotiate and preserve peace, was treacherously attacked by the Indians at Tippecanoe and narrowly escaped defeat; but turned the battle into a decisive victory.[2] It was generally believed—and proof was not wanting—that the Indians were instigated to hostilities by the British. War was soon afterwards declared in spite of a somewhat formidable opposition to that measure both in congress and among the people.

[1] In 1848 the mill was burned. The next year the remaining property of the corporation—the water privilege, saw and grist mills, two dwelling houses and a shop—was sold to Abel Bowers of Leominster, Mass., and the ownership of that property passed out of the hands of Keene parties. The corporation at that time consisted of John Wood, A. & T. Hall, Levi Willard, Samuel Dinsmoor, Aaron Appleton, John Elliot, Samuel Wood, Eliphalet Briggs, Samuel Cooper and Salma Hale. Mr. Bowers went into the manufacture of combs, and sold the saw and grist mills to Daniel Thompson and Elbridge G. Whitcomb of Keene.

[2] The Fourth U. S. Infantry, in which were several Keene and other Cheshire county men, was in Harrison's command under Lt. Col. James Miller.

In May, 1812, New Hampshire was called upon for 3,500 men. Volunteers responded promptly and the quota was soon organized. At the same time enlistments were made into the regular army.

The following obituary appeared in the Sentinel in 1812: "Died, May 5th in the U. S. service at Vincennes, Indiana Territory, Josiah Willard, son of Lockhart Willard, Esq., of this town, who for his gallant behaviour in the late action near the Prophets town, highly merited the approbation of his officers and country, aged 28." He was a son of Lockhart and Salome (Reed) Willard, born in Keene, Jan. 31, 1784. His mother was a daughter of Gen. James Reed.

Keene was well represented in the militia. Samuel Dinsmoor was quartermaster general of the state, with the rank of brigadier general, and his fine executive ability and earnest support of the administration were of great advantage in preparing the troops for the field. Wm. M. Bond, late captain of the Ashuelot Cavalry, was major of the Second battalion, Twentieth regiment, and Capt. Aaron Hall, Jr., had been succeeded in the command of the Keene Light Infantry by Capt. Horace Wells and he by Capt. Isaac Parker.

Shubael Butterfield dissolved his partnership in business with John Elliot and accepted an appointment as lieutenant in the Fourth United States Infantry, James Wells, the hatter, son of Thomas Wells, was appointed lieutenant in the Eleventh United States Infantry, and both opened recruiting offices at Benoni Shirtliff's tavern in Keene. Apparently no rolls of those enlistments have been preserved, but 397 men of New Hampshire's quota enlisted in the Eleventh regiment, many of them from Cheshire county, and a smaller number enlisted in the Fourth. Wells was lieutenant in Capt. Joseph Griswold's company, and after the consolidation of the Eleventh and Twenty-first regiments he was first lieutenant in the company of Capt. Richard Burns. Henry S., son of Judge Daniel Newcomb, enlisted in the regular army, and rose to the rank of lieutenant. The militia was not called out, except two companies of infantry and one of artillery sent to Portsmouth,

reinforced in July by a larger detachment. None from this part of the state was sent in 1812. The pay of the United States soldier at that time was $5.00 per month, afterwards increased to $8.00.

A large majority of the people of Keene and of Cheshire county were opposed to the embargo policy, and to the measures of the administration incident to the war. The Federalists complained bitterly of mismanagement, of the burdensome taxes and the accumulating debts. The report of Hull's surrender and other disasters added to the depression and intensified the opposition to the course of the government.

At the annual election in March, 1813, Keene cast 253 votes for John Taylor Gilman, the Federal candidate for governor, to forty-five for William Plumer, the administration candidate. In Cheshire county the vote was 3,622 to 2,083. At the national election in November the vote was still stronger against the administration candidates, Keene casting 272 votes in opposition, to thirty-nine in favor. Cheshire county stood 4,431 to 2,761.

Previous to this change in political sentiment, in 1810, Samuel Dinsmoor had been elected to congress by the Democrats. Being well known as an honorable, high-minded man and popular generally, he was reëlected in 1812, notwithstanding the strong majority of the opposition in Keene and Cheshire county.

There was much distress and irritation. All pleasure carriages were taxed from $2.00 to $20.00 each, according to value; salt twenty cents per bushel of fifty-six pounds; and many articles were similarly burdened. The financial depression was serious and widespread, causing disastrous failures among merchants and business men and embarrassment to the banks. Among those to suffer in that way was the Cheshire bank of Keene, which was compelled to close its doors for a short time. Estimates were published of the cost of the war in direct taxes for the year to follow, 1814. That for Keene was put down at $9,879; Alstead, $10,164; Chesterfield, $11,034; Walpole, $11,364; Westmoreland, $11,622; showing that in valuation at that time Keene stood below the four towns named, while

Fitzwilliam, Rindge, Richmond and Winchester stood nearly as high.

The non-importation laws encouraged smuggling, and there was demoralization and incipient sedition—so much so that law-abiding people were roused to stem that tide which they feared might undermine our institutions and overthrow our government.

Among the organizations for reform was the Washington Benevolent Society for the encouragement of patriotism and benevolence, extending throughout the country, particularly through New England. The national society had been organized in New York city on the 12th of July, 1808, with branches extending to states, counties and towns. There was a very active branch in Cheshire county, and a sub-branch in nearly every town. The Keene society was formed in February, 1812, and was composed of the leading people of the town, with Albe Cady secretary until he became secretary of state in 1814. It was active and vigorous, and continued for several years. To each member upon joining was given a small volume, 3x5 inches, half an inch thick, containing a portrait of Washington, a copy of his farewell address and of the constitution of the United States. Some of those curious little volumes are still in existence. The county society celebrated the 4th of July in 1812, at Walpole, in a very elaborate manner. A large procession of members marched through the streets with banners and a band of music, preceded by seventy young ladies in white, led by Miss Hayes, preceptress of the academy, listened to an oration and then sat down to a dinner on the common, which closed with toasts and speeches. Col. Carter of Marlboro, Col. Fisk of Chesterfield, Major Bond of Keene and other military officers were the marshals. On the same day Daniel Webster delivered an oration before the society at Portsmouth. The next year there was a similar celebration of Independence Day by the society in Keene. There was an oration by Phineas Cooke and a dinner in a bower in front of the courthouse. The procession marched from Fish's tavern (formerly Pierce's) under the marshalship of Dr. Daniel Adams, assisted by Capt. Isaac Parker and others.

The influence of those societies, with their patriotic meetings and Fourth of July celebrations, aroused the loyalty and stimulated the martial spirit of the people in spite of the political opposition to the measures of the administration. That martial spirit brought about a muster here in September, 1813, of the Sixth, Twelfth, Twentieth and Twenty-eighth regiments of the Fifth brigade, numbering about 3,000 men, reviewed by Brig. Gen. Hastings. The field was the plain above Sand hill, one mile west of the Square, on which there were no buildings at that time. Besides the infantry of the line, each regiment had two companies of cavalry, two of light infantry and one of artillery—twenty companies in full uniform. In the afternoon all marched through the streets of the village and performed various evolutions, with firing. The day was fine and the warlike spectacle was enjoyed by thousands of people.

The appetite for such displays had been whetted by what took place a few weeks previous. The government collected a force of 5,000 men at Burlington, Vt., under Gen. Hampton, with a view to an advance on Montreal. About the 20th of June, Col. John Darrington marched through Keene with the Fourth United States Infantry to join that force. He encamped his regiment on the north side of Fisher brook, east side of the turnpike, a little more than a mile north of the Square; and it remained there several days and attracted much attention. A tavern was kept by the "Widow Leonard" on the opposite side of the turnpike, since known as the Kate Tyler place. Two of the men died in that camp, Ebenezer Prescott and Leonard Jenkins, both from Maine, and were buried near the camp. Lieut. Butterfield, and the men enlisted by him from Keene and other towns, belonged to that regiment, but the rolls have not been preserved and it is impossible to designate them.

Commodore Perry's victory on Lake Erie in September, 1813, and other successes, served to stimulate the patriotism and martial spirit of the people. In February, 1814, a large number of carpenters passed through Keene on their way to Lake Champlain, to build the vessels with which McDonough won his victory on those waters.

During the summer of 1814, British war vessels lay off the New Hampshire coast, and captured and burned many coasting vessels; and the admiral declared the whole eastern coast in a state of blockade. There was great alarm at Portsmouth and other New England ports, and the excitement spread throughout the states.

In August, a British squadron sailed up Chesapeake bay and landed a force of 5,000 troops, which advanced on Washington, burned the public buildings and many of the government archives, and withdrew unmolested. That dastardly act of the British and the still more dastardly cowardice of the Maryland and Virginia militia under Gen. Winder, who permitted it, roused the people in this part of the country, brought the administration hosts of friends and caused thousands to rally to the defence of the nation.

In New Hampshire, Gov. Gilman, "yielding to the demands of the people," ordered detachments from twenty regiments of militia to march immediately to the defence of Portsmouth. Two days later he ordered the whole militia force of the state, infantry, cavalry and artillery, "to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning;" and directed seventeen companies from the regiments on the eastern border of the state to march at once to Portsmouth. The orders were obeyed with alacrity, whole companies volunteering where only detachments were called for. The Keene Light Infantry, Capt. Isaac Parker, and the Ashuelot Cavalry, Capt. Justus Perry, offered their services and stood ready to march with full ranks. Companies of volunteers from those who were exempt by law were formed in many of the towns, under experienced officers, and offered their services for the defence of the state.

At Portsmouth, the troops were organized into a brigade under Brig. Gen. John Montgomery of Haverhill, consisting of five regiments and one battalion of infantry, and one battalion of artillery. Lt. Col. Nat. Fisk of Westmoreland commanded the First regiment, in which were the companies of Capt. Nathan Glidden of Unity, and Capt. Oliver Warren (residence not given). Capt. Glidden's company was composed chiefly of Cheshire county men, and in

Capt. Warren's company were Samuel C. Thayer, sergeant, and Daniel A. Carpenter, Justus Chapin, John Foster, Edmund C. Mason, Shubael Plympton, Henry Wheeler[1] and Amos Wood, privates, on the roll as from Keene, and Daniel Allen[2] of Surry—all enlisted for three months.

Lt. Col. John Steele, of Peterboro, commanded the Second regiment, with John H. Fuller, afterwards a prominent citizen of Keene, adjutant. Capt. James M. Warner of Acworth, commanded one of the companies, composed almost wholly of Cheshire county men. Among them were Josiah Colony, Jehiel Day, Zebadiah "Keys," George Metcalf, Isaac Miller, Jr., and Asa Wares, Jr., from Keene.[3] About fifty men went from the Twentieth regiment at this time, the detachment assembling at Keene and starting for Portsmouth on the 17th of September, 1814. Every man was given a dinner and had his canteen filled. Some of the towns sent wagons to carry their men. On the 28th a second detachment of about forty men from the same regiment marched from Keene, and were treated with the same hospitality.

Capt. Reuben Marsh of Chesterfield, commanded a company of Cheshire and Sullivan county men; Capt. William Gregg of Antrim and Capt. Silas Call (residence not given) also had many Cheshire county men in their companies; and Capt. Josiah Bellows of Walpole, commanded one of the companies of artillery. His men were mostly from Walpole and Charlestown.

At Portsmouth, the governor took command in person. British cruisers lay off the harbor with the intention of destroying the navy yard and Portsmouth, but finding a large force, well stationed for defence, they abandoned

[1] Henry Wheeler was from Nelson.

[2] Mrs. Deidamia Allen, widow of this Daniel Allen, still lives in Keene (1899), in the small brick house just beyond where Col. Darrington's regiment encamped, and draws her pension from the United States government. She was born in 1800, and when she was married, at the age of seventeen—then living in Surry—she came to Keene and bought all the cotton cloth there was in town—forty yards—and paid forty-two cents a yard. Her bed ticking cost fifty cents a yard. (This from her own lips.) Allen was afterwards a captain in the militia and came to Keene to live.

[3] The above are all the names of men from Keene found in the adjutant general's reports, but David Heaton, Barzillai Wheeler, and several other Keene men are reported by their descendants and others to have been soldiers in that war. Wheeler enlisted at Keene in 1812, under Lieut. Butterfield, was made a sergeant and orderly for Gen. Macomb, and served through the war.

their plan and left this part of the coast.[1] In November, 1814, the troops were discharged, without pay, and most of them had to beg their way home; but the Cheshire county men were paid in December, at Sumner's tavern in Keene.

The men from Keene in the regular army were engaged in some of the most important service. At the battles of Chippewa and Lundy's Lane the Eleventh regiment greatly distinguished itself, and Daniel Billings of Keene was killed in the attack on Fort Erie. Lieut. James Wells of that regiment had been promoted to captain. Zenas Lebourveau, of Keene, of the same regiment, had died at Burlington, Vt., the year before. Charles Tolman, of Keene, had enlisted as a private, was promoted to ensign and afterwards to lieutenant in the Sixth regiment, commanded by Col. James Miller. That regiment also greatly distinguished itself in the battles above named; and both that regiment and the Fourth, in which were Lieut. Butterfield and his men, and William Vose, afterwards of Keene, were in the fight at Plattsburg.

Those victories closed the war in the North. A treaty of peace was signed at Ghent in December, 1814, but Gen. Jackson had the opportunity to win the battle of New Orleans before the news reached this country. The account of that battle, fought on the 8th of January, 1815, did not reach Keene until the 10th of February.

The war had been an expensive one for the country at that time, and the burden of taxes and debt was exceedingly heavy on the people and caused bitter complaint. New Hampshire's proportion of the debt was $3,226,445; that of Keene, $26,908; Alstead, $29,392; Walpole, $36,491; Westmoreland, $28,305; Chesterfield, $26,618. Revenue taxes were collected on all iron and leather and the manufactures of the same; on paper, beer, tobacco, candles and almost every article in use; and to enforce the collection property was often seized and sold by the sheriff.

In consequence of those hardships the opposition to

[1] After the war a British officer told Col. Walbach of our army that they had made every arrangement to destroy the navy yard and the town; that he went up the Piscataway disguised as a fisherman and found so many troops, so well posted, that upon his report the British commander abandoned the project of attacking.

the course of the administration was strong and violent. President Madison was denounced as an imbecile, and the Sentinel and other Federalist papers called upon him to resign. At the annual meeting in 1815 Keene cast 273 votes for Gilman, the opposition candidate for governor, to fifty-three for William Plumer, the administration candidate.

During the period covered by this chapter, Keene made a steady growth in population, business and wealth, notwithstanding the adverse effects of the war. In 1811 Capt. Wm. Wyman built the present hospital building—then the finest house in town—for his own residence, but died before it was completed. His brick store was sold the next year to Capt. Isaac Parker; and the firm of Parker & Hough moved into it in the spring of 1813. They were succeeded in the brick store on the west side by Phineas Fiske & Co., who came here from Chesterfield in 1814.

In December, 1812, the town of Roxbury was incorporated, formed of territory taken from the towns of Keene, Packersfield and Marlboro, notwithstanding the earnest protests which were sent to the legislature by the inhabitants of those towns. An area of 1,472 acres of land and fifteen or more families were taken from Keene, and the North branch was made the line between the two towns for a considerable part of the distance.

In the fall of 1812, Justus Perry came from Marlboro and the next spring took "the large Store Building opposite the meetinghouse"—on the east side of the Square, previously occupied by Sparhawk & Davis, successors to John G. Bond—and carried on a successful business there for many years. In 1814, Aaron Appleton came from Dublin to Keene and with John Elliot formed the firm of Appleton & Elliot. They bought, of Capt. Josiah Richardson, the present Elliot corner—about twenty-three square rods, "with the store thereon standing," then occupied by Daniel D. Hatch & Co. The consideration was $2,000. They immediately took possession and established a business which was carried on very successfully for a long term of years. In 1815 the old, one-story wooden structure[1] was

[1] Dea. Adolphus Wright moved the old store to Court street, where Don H. Woodward, Esq., now lives (1900), added another story, and it was occupied by him and others as a dwelling until 1891, when Mr. Woodward built his present house. It was then bought by Mr. John E. Heald and moved to Woodburn street, No. 37, and is occupied as a dwelling (1899).

removed, and the firm built the present brick building, then two stories high. The entrance to the printing office and bookstore, which moved into the chambers the year after it was built, was by stairs rising from the northeast corner on the north side of the building. In 1813, John Wood and Capt. Aaron Hall took in Timothy Hall, from Connecticut, a distant relative of Capt. Aaron, forming the noted firm of A. & T. Hall, on the site of Buffum's block, which continued for nearly fifty years. John Wood's name did not appear, but he was "the financial and substantial member of the concern." Their chief business was that of druggists and apothecaries, but they also kept a general assortment of goods.

In addition to the five principal and very substantial firms named above, there was the usual complement of smaller shops—jewelers, hatters, tailors, shoemakers, blacksmiths and others, all of which did a thriving business in manufacturing by hand and selling their wares. Jesse Corbett was for a long term of years the principal jeweler in Keene, and a noted captain of the Keene Light Infantry. He followed Luther Smith, who still made clocks, in the store next south of A. & T. Hall, sold military goods, gold and silver lace, plumes, tassels, etc., and tickets in the "Harvard College Lottery." The Keene Bookstore also sold tickets in the "Union Canal Lottery," a scheme to save Boston from deterioration after the war "and make it advance like New York," by utilizing the inland waters of New England by canals running to that city.

In 1812, A. & A. Wilder (Abijah, Jr., and his brother Azel) were in the cabinet and wheelwright business and making chairs, looms, cheese-presses, etc., "at their shop two hundred rods north of the meetinghouse in Keene, on the Turnpike."[1] In 1815 they dissolved, Abijah, Jr., continuing the cabinet and sleigh-making business at the old stand, and Azel going with the wheelhead and wheelwright business to his "Factory one hundred rods west of the meeting house, near Faulkner & Colony's mills." Thomas F. Ames resumed the saddlery business at the old stand of

[1] Believed to be the building now known as the Old Sun Tavern.

Willard & Ames. John Towns, who built the brick house next south of the Eagle Hotel and several others in town, and Aaron Davis, who afterward built shops and an iron foundry at South Keene, were blacksmiths together, their shop standing just north of the bank. When James Wells, the hatter, went into the army, he was succeeded by Isaac Wells and Silas Walworth, and they by Thomas Shapley, who for many years carried on a successful wholesale and retail business in the manufacture of "hats and ladies fur bonnets, next door North of the Bank."

Gilbert Mellen had left the old Ralston tavern about 1809 and bought the house next north of the Wyman tavern on Main street and kept public house there for two years. He then exchanged places with William Pierce and took the former Edwards tavern. He was succeeded there for a short time by Nathan Fish, then by Salem Sumner, who came from Brattleboro and kept the house until 1820. Pierce kept the house he had of Mellen a short time, but soon died, at the age of forty-three. That house was afterwards burned. Col. Abraham Wheeler died in 1814, and Josiah Sawyer, of Swanzey, who had married his daughter, succeeded him in what is still known as the Sawyer tavern, two miles west of the Square. In 1815, Ithamar Chase, father of Salmon P. Chase, who had married Jeanette, daughter of Alexander Ralston, and was administrator of the Ralston estate, came here from Cornish with his family and took the tavern and kept it till he died, in 1817. Daniel Day still kept his public house on the Cheshire turnpike; Henry Goodnow one on the third New Hampshire turnpike, on the former Benjamin Archer place; Stephen Chase one on the same turnpike, where his descendants still live; and the Widow Leonard one at the junction of the two turnpikes, as already stated.

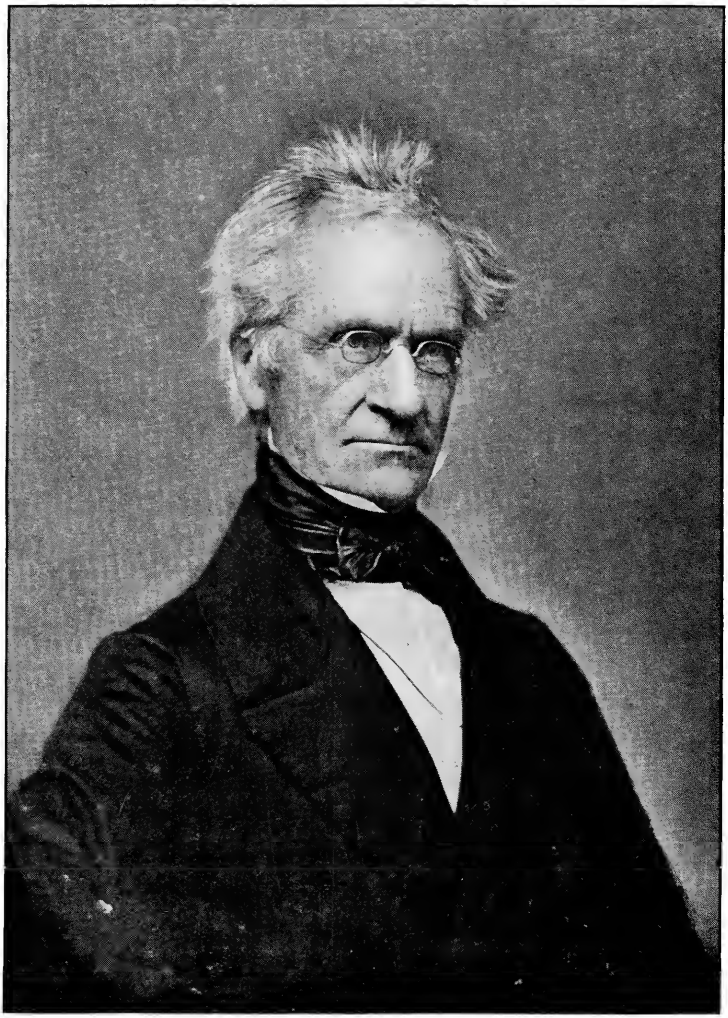
During this period a post route was established from Concord through Weare, Deering, Hancock and Packersfield to Keene and return, which continued till after 1830.

In 1814, four-horse coaches were put on which ran from Boston by the Concord and New Ipswich route to Keene, Rutland and Burlington, and return. They arrived in Keene from both directions Monday, Wednesday and

Friday evenings and left next morning, running through between Keene and Boston in one day. The arrival and departure of those stages, and others at the same time, were the great events of the day, and brought many people to the stage house. In 1815, an extra coach was added that ran from Keene to Boston every Monday, returning on Saturday, for the benefit of those who wished to spend several days in the city.

Previous to his election to congress, Samuel Dinsmoor had taken as partner Booz Atherton, a young lawyer from Westmoreland, and when Mr. Dinsmoor went to Washington, Atherton took his place as postmaster and held the office until 1813, when Joseph Buffum was appointed and Atherton returned to Westmoreland. In 1813, William Gordon had a law office over A. & T. Hall's store. In 1814, Levi Chamberlain came here, a young lawyer, and had an office where the south wing of the Cheshire House now stands. He and Foster Alexander formed the law firm of Alexander & Chamberlain. Chamberlain afterwards spent several years in practice at Fitzwilliam. In February, 1812, a long, narrow building on the west side of Main street, where the Kingsbury building and Lamson block now stand, owned jointly by Abijah Kingsbury and William Lamson, senior, and occupied by Mr. Kingsbury, with a large shoemaking business, Samuel Wood, baker, and other shops, was destroyed by fire. Each owner rebuilt separately; and Mr. Kingsbury continued his business on the second floor of his building. For more than seventy years he and his sons, Charles and George, and his son-in-law, George Rising, carried on business on that spot, and the property is still owned (1901) by his descendants. William Lawrence took the lower floor of Kingsbury's building with the morocco-dressing business, employing many hands and advertising for 20,000 pounds of sumac and 10,000 sheepskins.

In July, 1813, a remarkable freshet occurred. The streams in this vicinity were swollen to a height never before known, and dams, mills and bridges were carried away. In August of the same year, a destructive hail-storm passed through Cheshire county, with the centre a



LEVI CHAMBERLAIN.

little north of Keene. Great damage was done to the growing crops and much glass was broken. "Hailstones an inch and a quarter in diameter fell here in Keene, and the next morning the ground was covered with them three inches deep." (New Hampshire Sentinel.)

For many years, the office of the clerk of the courts had been kept at Walpole, but in 1813, by order of the court it was removed to Keene; and Salma Hale, Esq., the clerk, took up his residence here.

In the spring of 1813, Miss C. Aldrich opened a private school "in the Bank Hall," and taught several terms—sometimes in other buildings.

On the 1st of May, 1814, Miss Catherine Fiske opened her celebrated school in the brick house built by John G. Bond—now the residence of Mrs. E. C. Thayer—which Miss Fiske afterwards bought. To aid in giving assurance of the high character of the school Mrs. Daniel Newcomb was associated with her at first, but the next year a Miss Reed joined her, followed two years later by Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Hon. Peleg Sprague, and other teachers were employed. Music and French were Miss Sprague's[1] especial branches. It was primarily a young ladies' boarding school, and was called a "Female Seminary," but pupils of both sexes were admitted from families in town, and it numbered sometimes as high as eighty to one hundred. The school was well equipped and nearly all branches of learning were taught, "including drawing and painting in their various branches, and plain and ornamental needle work." Miss Fiske advertised that: "Strict attention will be paid to the improvement of young ladies and to their manners and their morals." "A Mantuamaker and Milliner will be provided for those who wish to employ them." Miss Fiske was a remarkably efficient and successful teacher, and her school, which continued for about thirty years, was one of the most celebrated in the country. Pupils came to her from nearly every state in the Union. After the first few years, and until her death, the school was managed solely by Miss Fiske.

[1] The piano used was the first brought to Keene and is still in the family of her cousin, George Carpenter of Swanzey. Another of the pianos used in that school is still in the family of the late Mr. George Tilden, whose wife had been a pupil there.

Early in 1814, from causes already stated and after the subject had been agitated for several years, a corporation was formed for the manufacture of glass in Keene, called the New Hampshire Glass Factory. The principal stockholders were John Elliot, Daniel Bradford, Daniel Watson, John Hatch, Nathaniel Sprague and other citizens of Keene; and Aaron Appleton and Capt. Timothy Twitchell came from Dublin about that time and became very active in the business. A building 90x60 feet, with 20-foot posts and 40-foot rafters, was erected where the county jail now stands, and houses were built for the workmen. Col. Lawrence Schoolcraft, a veteran of the Revolution, who had commanded a regiment in the war just then closing, and had been manager of glass works at Albany, N. Y., was appointed superintendent. Cylinder window glass was the principal product at first, the sizes being chiefly 6x8, 7x9 and 8x10, though the latter size was too large for popular use at that time. The business was profitable at first, and furnished a market for large quantities of wood, ashes and other farm products, and gave employment of various kinds to a large number of men. The company also carried on a large potash business, the building standing at the top of the rise on Washington street, east of the factory, long known as "Potash hill," when it was longer and steeper than at present.

The successive clerks of the corporation[1] for the first several years were Timothy Twitchell, John Elliot, John Prentiss and Nathaniel Sprague; the treasurers were Timothy Twitchell, John Elliot and Nathaniel Sprague; the agents were Col. Schoolcraft, John Hatch, Nathaniel Sprague and Charles Carter. In 1815, Watson, Twitchell and Henry R. Schoolcraft, son of the superintendent, withdrew from the corporation and started the manufacture of flint glass tumblers, decanters, etc., on Marlboro street. The next year Watson withdrew and Twitchell and Schoolcraft continued the business and opened "a store and warehouse at the Red House (the old tavern of Dr. Ziba Hall, and of Aaron and Luther Eames) one door north of

[1] The name of the corporation was changed some years afterwards to New Hampshire Glass Co., and later to Keene Window Glass Co. Their advertisements sometimes called for 20,000 bushels of ashes.

Shirtliff's tavern." The firm was afterwards Schoolcraft & Sprague. In 1817, their business passed into the hands of Justus Perry, who put up a large stone building on Marlboro street and did an extensive business in the manufacture and sale of bottles and other kinds of flint glass ware.

But the treaty of peace removed the embargo and admitted foreign goods almost free of duty, causing a sad depression of nearly all manufacturing in the country. The property and business of the New Hampshire Glass Company passed into the hands of Appleton & Elliot and years afterwards they and their successors, John Elliot & Co., made it exceedingly profitable.

The demoralization of public sentiment, produced by conflicting opinions concerning the war, corruption in politics, and other deleterious influences, was so great that the good people of Keene and Cheshire county, and of New England generally, were alarmed for the safety of religion and morals; and action was taken very extensively to counteract those influences. In November, 1814, a convention of delegates from most of the towns of the county was held at the courthouse, Noah Cooke, president, and Rev. Gad Newell of Nelson, clerk, to take such action as should arouse the people to greater moral, religious and political integrity. Resolutions were passed recommending the formation of societies in the towns for the promotion of a more strict and general observance of the Sabbath; greater efficiency in the enforcement of the laws; that the towns choose men of the highest character and standing for tythingmen; and resolved that the war was a chastisement of God upon a sinful and rebellious people—particularly for their profanation of the sanctity of the Sabbath. In December, 1814, a convention of delegates from twenty-four towns in the county was held at Walpole, Oliver West, president, and Phineas Handerson, secretary, which passed resolutions in opposition to the war and chose Hon. Benjamin West of Charlestown delegate to the convention to be held at Hartford,[1] to take

[1] The celebrated Hartford convention, held later in the same month. West said he would go, because the Southern people threatened to hang every delegate who appeared there, and he was old and would not deprive the state of a more useful citizen.

further action of the same tenor. Similar action was taken throughout the greater part of New England. In accordance with the recommendation of the Keene convention a county society was formed called the General Monadnock Society for the Promotion of Morals. Noah Cooke was president, Col. Joseph Frost of Marlboro, vice president, and Rev. Seth Payson of Rindge, secretary. The tythingmen of Keene published the following:—

"NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC!

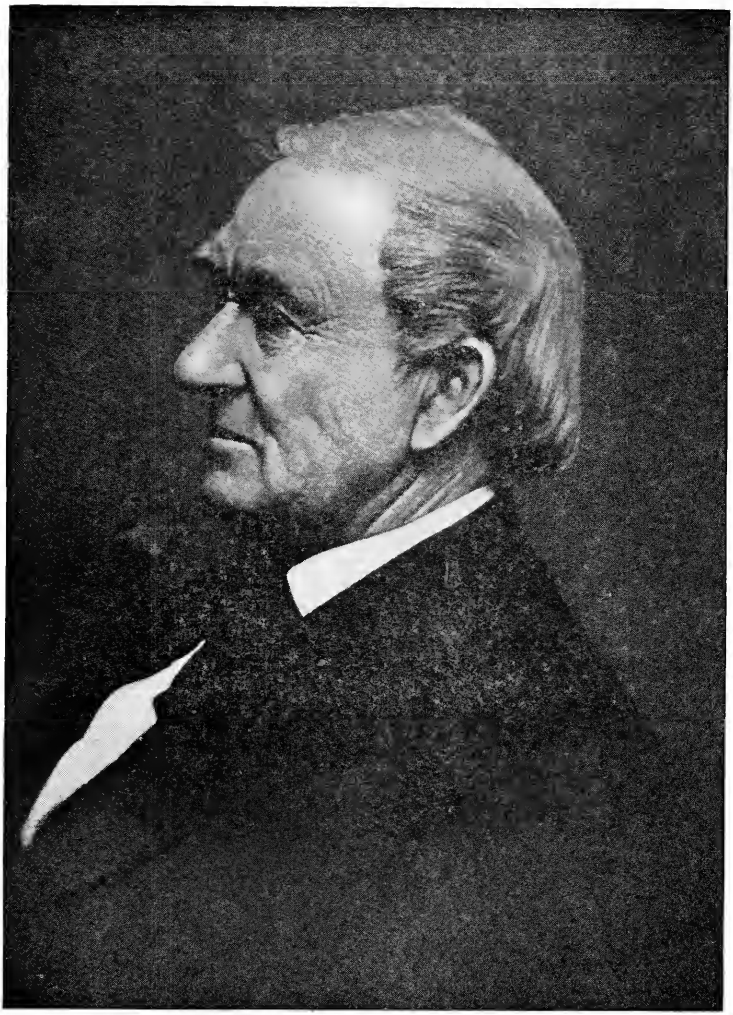
"We the TYTHINGMEN of Keene, according to our oath, will inform of and prosecute all offenders against the LAWS for the better observance of the SABBATH within our knowledge; and also do request all JUSTICES of the PEACE and SELECTMEN, who are under the same oath, to give their aid and assistance in so laudable an undertaking.

"Abijah Wilder, Samuel Bassett, Abel Blake."

The tythingmen of other towns took similar action and those of Rindge, Jaffrey, New Ipswich, Ashby, Ashburnham and Winchendon met at Rindge and issued an address to the people calling upon them to "preserve the religion, morals and laws of the country."

The next annual meeting of Keene chose Abijah Wilder, Samuel Bassett, Abel Blake, Elijah Carter, Ebenezer Clark, John Prentiss and Elijah Parker, tythingmen. They and the selectmen held meetings and joined in notifying the public that they had "taken their oaths to execute the laws (for the observance of the Sabbath and morals generally) and were prepared to do so." The notice was signed by all the tythingmen and by Lockhart Willard and Isaac Parker, selectmen of Keene. (The whole number of tythingmen chosen at that annual meeting was fifteen, but only the above took the oath of office.) That office continued until 1830. After that year no tythingmen were chosen.

"In 1814 the Rev. Aaron Hall died on the 12th of August, in the 64th year of his age and the 37th of his ministry. He was much beloved by his people, who manifested their attachment, by increasing his salary, at successive periods, from eighty pounds, ($266.66), to $500; by assistance in various ways, and by constant acts of kindness. The town, a short time before his death, on



JOSIAH COLONY.

consultation with him, voted to settle a colleague, and invited Lemuel Capen, afterwards settled at Stirling and South Boston, to preach as a candidate; and at the first town meeting held after his decease, they voted to pay to the widow his salary to the first of March, the anniversary of his settlement.

"The intercourse between pastor and people had always been familiar and cordial. The drawing of his wood, from the minister's wood lot, afforded an annual occasion of bringing them together, at which all were happy, and none more so than the pastor. On the day set apart for that purpose, a sufficient number of the parishioners assembled at the wood lot, and late in the afternoon, twenty or thirty sleds, in long procession, arrived, heavily laden, at his door, and then, the great pile being built up, baked beans in huge pots, and good cider in quart mugs, were placed before the company, and partaken of with becoming hilarity."

(Annals, page 97.)

The amount of wood brought to the minister's door each year by those "bees" was usually upward of forty cords.

"About the time of the Annual Thanksgiving," Rev. David Oliphant came to preach as a candidate for the position of pastor. He was a graduate of Union college and of the theological seminary at Andover. In February, both the church and the town voted to give Mr. Oliphant a call, at a salary of $700, with a yearly vacation of "three or four Sabbaths;" and he was ordained on the 24th of May, 1815, although a large number of the society remonstrated against his settlement. Rev. Messrs. Dickinson of Walpole, Hall of New Ipswich, Pratt of Westmoreland, Ainsworth of Jaffrey, Burge of West Brattleboro and Edwards of Andover, Mass., assisted at the ordination.

In the spring of 1815, Francis Faulkner and Josiah Colony bought the mills and privilege on Ashuelot river, and began the very successful business which is still continued by their descendants under the corporate name of Faulkner & Colony Manufacturing Company. They purchased the property of John McGuire, who had bought it of Hale & Kise in 1814.

Albe Cady, having been appointed secretary of state and chairman of the committee to build the state house,

resigned his offices of town clerk, selectman and representative, and removed to Concord. In August, the town elected Elijah Parker town clerk, but both the other offices were left vacant.

Notwithstanding the strong opposition to the war in this part of the country, the military spirit had been roused, and the militia was in excellent condition. In October, the Twentieth regiment mustered near Judge Newcomb's residence and made a fine appearance. At the close a lively sham battle was fought. Wm. M. Bond was major of one of the battalions, Isaac Parker was still captain of the Keene Light Infantry and Justus Perry of the Ashuelot Cavalry

Abijah Metcalf died this year, aged eighty.

CHAPTER XV.

A PEACEFUL DECADE.

1816—1825.

At the annual meeting in 1816, Keene cast 359 votes; Westmoreland, 372; Chesterfield, 380; Walpole, 393; indicating a remarkable parity in the number of inhabitants in those towns.

As early as 1771, a small church of Baptists had been established in the eastern part of Westmoreland, and that denomination had gradually spread into the western part of Keene. In 1816 a meetinghouse was built a few rods west of the stores at West Keene and a church of thirteen members gathered there under the ministry of Rev. Charles Cummings.[1] The same year the "old men's seats" in the Congregational meetinghouse were removed and twelve additional pews built in their places. In December previous the town "Voted not to suffer a stove put in the meeting-house provided it could be done without any expense to the town." The new pews sold for from $60 to $80 apiece, and the money was used for repairing and painting the edifice by a committee consisting of John Wood, Aaron Appleton and Isaac Parker. The same committee was directed to procure a new bell, provided they could do so by an exchange of the old one with the addition of any balance of funds that might be left in their hands from the sale of pews. The new bell was procured in 1819.

Mr. Thomas Hardy came to town this year, through the influence of Samuel Dinsmoor and others, and opened a private school in which he advertised to teach the branches usually taught in academies. He also taught an evening school. He remained two years and then took charge of the Chesterfield academy.

[1] Samuel Dinsmoor (senior) afterwards governor, attended services there, "riding out from the village every Sunday morning on his beautiful white horse." The frame of the meetinghouse, many years afterwards, was taken down and rebuilt on the east side of the Ashuelot above the mills and converted into a steam sawmill.

The influence of the war still kept the military spirit active. The Keene Light Infantry retained its position as one of the finest companies in the state. Its late captain, Isaac Parker, had been promoted to brigade inspector with the rank of major; and in September of 1816 the company, under Capt. Smith, equipped for actual service, marched to Surry and encamped for several days, in imitation of real army life. While there the Ashuelot Cavalry, Capt. Justus Perry, marched to their camp and made them a friendly visit.

1816 was remembered long afterwards as "the cold year." It was remarkable as such throughout the United States and in Europe. In some sections it was cold and dry, in others cold and wet. In this vicinity for more than twelve weeks in the spring and summer no rain fell. Grass withered, corn and other crops could not mature, and there was much distress in consequence.

The annual town meeting of 1817 "Voted to adopt the act to regulate the proceedings for extinguishing fires," which required "fire wards" to be chosen by the town and gave them great power. Elijah Dunbar, William Lamson, James Wilson, Aaron Hall, Samuel Dinsmoor, Daniel Bradford, John Wood, Joab Pond, John Prentiss and Abijah Wilder were chosen; and about the same number was chosen each year for several years following.

The independence of thought on religious matters which resulted later in Unitarianism was beginning to develop. The services of Rev. Mr. Oliphant not being wholly satisfactory, the town took action looking to his dismissal and chose a committee to "wait on" him and request him to join in calling a council for that purpose. Mr. Oliphant declined to receive the committee or hold any communication with them except in writing. A controversy ensued in which the church sustained its pastor, and during which several long reports of contending committees were received and recorded in full. Finally, Mr. Oliphant acceded to the request of the town and on the 1st of December he was dismissed by a council called mutually for that purpose. The question of collecting the minister tax,[1] which

[1] "Nathan Pond, tax collector, arrested Eli Blake, Isaac Wyman, Jr., and Samuel Towne, and locked them up in jail for refusing to pay their minister tax. After having the key turned on them they paid the tax and were set free."

ZEDEKIAH S. BARSTOW.

had become a serious one, also entered into that controversy, and in November the town "Voted not to direct the selectmen to assess the ministerial tax this year, 54 for, 98 against." On the 5th of October, 1817, the shock of an earthquake was felt here with remarkable distinctness. It occurred at 11:45, on Sunday morning, while the services in church were in progress. The edifice was shaken, the minister paused, the congregation sprang to their feet, and for a moment there was consternation and confusion. The same movement was felt throughout this part of the country and in Boston and New York.

John Lyscom, the first dentist of whom we have any record, took rooms this year at Sumner's inn, and was followed a few years later by George W. Partridge.

Capt. James Wells, the hatter, returned from the army and resumed business on the lower floor of the Kingsbury building, formerly the morocco dressing shop.

In 1816, Hon. Ithamar Chase had formed a copartnership with Ebenezer Brewer and Wm. M. Bond, Chase, Brewer & Bond, succeeding Phineas Fiske & Co. in the brick store, now the north end of City Hotel. Mr. Chase died in August of this year, and his son, Alexander Ralston Chase, took the business and continued it for a few years, when it was given up, and John P. Barber took the store for a stove and tin shop.

Among those who died in 1817 were Col. Timothy Ellis, aged ninety-one; Major Davis Howlett, seventy-nine; and Capt. John Draper.

At the annual meeting in 1818, the town appropriated $1,000 for schools, a larger sum than had ever been raised before, and the same sum was continued for several years afterwards. Daniel Bradford, Elijah Parker and Samuel Dinsmoor were chosen "inspectors of schools."

The town was now without a minister, and several persons had officiated as candidates for the place. Among them was Mr. Zedekiah S. Barstow, a young man from Connecticut, who preached here first on the 1st day of March, 1818. He gave so much satisfaction that at a legal meeting on the 18th of May, the town voted to unite with the church in giving him a call to settle—about 150 voting

in favor and none against. It also voted him a settlement of $600 and a salary of $600 per annum—increased on the 13th of June to $700—with a vacation of "three or four Sabbaths a year to visit his friends." Mr. Barstow accepted and he was ordained on Wednesday, the 1st day of July, the churches of Acworth (Rev. Phineas Cooke), Charlestown, Walpole, Chesterfield and Marlboro in New Hampshire, and Lancaster and Hadley, Mass., assisting. The council was escorted to the meetinghouse by 400 to 500 members of the society, of both sexes, and the people who attended numbered nearly 2,000, hundreds of whom were unable to enter.

A freshet in March did immense damage on the Connecticut river and the smaller streams, carrying away bridges, dams and mills. The bridges at South Keene and below Judge Newcomb's were swept away.

Imprisonment for debt was still sanctioned by law, but the "jail-yard" for poor debtors sometimes included a considerable tract of territory, which was designated by the courts. This year, 1818, a petition was presented to the court, signed by many leading men of the town, representing that the jail-yard for poor debtors included only a few houses and asking that it be extended. The request was granted.

Hon. Salma Hale had been elected to congress in 1816, but this year he declined a reëlection and returned to the position of clerk of the courts. Joseph Buffum, who had been postmaster in Keene since 1813, succeeded Mr. Hale in congress, and Thomas M. Edwards, then a young lawyer, was appointed postmaster, July 1, and had the office over the store of William Lamson, Jr., where the Bank block now stands. The entrance was from Roxbury street by stairs on the outside of the building.

Among the deaths in 1818 were those of Lockhart Willard, aged fifty-five; William Woods, eighty-four; Hon. Daniel Newcomb, seventy-two; Capt. John Houghton, seventy-two; Nathan Bixby, seventy-two; and Capt. David Willson, seventy.

The young minister, Rev. Z. S. Barstow, recently a tutor in the celebrated Hopkins school in New Haven, and

in Hamilton college, took great interest in the schools, and at the annual town meeting in 1819 he was chosen at the head of a board of five "visitors and inspectors of schools." The other members were Elijah Dunbar, John Prentiss, Salma Hale and Joel Parker.

To avoid the steep hills over which ran the great thoroughfare to the northwest, known from here to Bellows Falls as the third New Hampshire turnpike, efforts were made to change its course by building a new road through the gap, where the railroad now runs. The project was opposed by the towns on the grounds that it would be very expensive to build and of but little benefit to the towns through which it passed, particularly in the cases of Surry and Westmoreland. It was to be wholly new in Surry, mostly so in Westmoreland, and over all the distance in Keene from the present stone house on the Blake farm to Surry line, and over most of that from the John Colony farmhouse to the Chesterfield road near Wheelock park. A petition for the road, with a long list of signatures, had been presented to the court in 1813 but the towns had secured continuances from term to term until 1816, when the court appointed a committee which laid out the road—estimating the expense at $5,600 and the damages at $3,450—and reported in 1817. The court accepted the report and ordered the road to be built within two years, and the appraised damages to be paid to the land owners. The annual town meeting in 1819 instructed the selectmen to consult with committees and agents of the other towns, to devise the best means of opposition, and to continue the fight against the road. Joel Parker, Esq., was reëlected agent and counsel for the town to manage the suit. He was succeeded the next year by Foster Alexander, and he, for several years, by Thomas M. Edwards. After a long contest changes were made in the old highway from the Chesterfield road to the Colony farm, establishing the present line of road there; but the section from the Blake place to the summit was not built until 1833, when, after twenty years of opposition, the road was finally completed. It was known for many years as the "County road"—since the railroad was built, as the "Summit road."

The state militia at this time, 1819, was organized in three divisions of two brigades each, with general and staff officers to correspond—thirty-eight regiments of infantry, grenadiers, light infantry and riflemen, to which were attached thirty-three companies of cavalry, soon afterwards increased to forty-two, and thirty-two companies of artillery. The Keene Light Infantry was now commanded by Capt. Jesse Corbett. Capt. Justus Perry of the cavalry had been promoted to major, then to lieutenant colonel, and was now in command of the Twentieth regiment, with Thomas F. Ames, adjutant. The regiment mustered here on the 5th of October. The line was formed according to the tactics of those days, with two companies of cavalry on the right; next to them the Walpole artillery; then the two companies of light infantry, from Keene and Westmoreland; and on their left the nine companies of infantry, in the center of which was an artillery company of the lads of Keene, twelve to fifteen years of age, commanded by young William Dinsmoor. One of the infantry companies was from the west side of the river in Keene. The whole regiment was in uniform—those of the light infantry, cavalry and artillery were particularly fine—and was highly commended.

The national question of admitting the state of Missouri into the Union without prohibiting slavery agitated the public, and a call was issued by leading men for a convention of delegates from every town in the county to meet at the courthouse in Keene to discuss the question and give expression to public sentiment. The meeting, on the 21st of December, 1819, was fully attended by delegates and others. Judge Roger Vose of Walpole called the assembly to order, and Nahum Parker, Esq., of Fitzwilliam, was chosen president and Phineas Handerson of Chesterfield, secretary. An address taking strong ground against the extension of slavery, supported by Hon. James Wilson, Hon. Salma Hale and others, was sent out to the people.

In 1819, their clerk, Lockhart Willard, Esq., having died, the proprietors of Keene applied to Foster Alexander, a justice of the peace, to call a legal meeting of their body. Justice Alexander issued his warrant, and the meeting was

held on the 11th of January. Mr. John Wood was chosen clerk, and he held that position until he died, in 1856, and was the last clerk of the proprietors of Keene.

The supervising officers of the schools in 1820, chosen at the annual town meeting, were one "principal visitor," Rev. Z. S. Barstow, and six "visitors and inspectors of schools," one for every two districts—James Wilson (senior), Joel Parker, Nathaniel Sprague, Daniel Bradford, Thomas M. Edwards and Royal Blake.

The town had repeatedly refused to appropriate money for instruction in singing, though sometimes granting it. This year, 1820, it voted $50 for such instruction "for both societies," Congregational and Baptist.

Notwithstanding the strong opposition to stoves in the meetinghouse a few years before, they had now been introduced (in the one belonging to the town), and the town "Voted that the sexton ring the Bell on Sunday and supply the wood for the stove in the meetinghouse and take care of it the ensuing year, and that the expense be defrayed by the persons who pay taxes to Mr. Barstow."[1] One article of the warrant was, "To adopt such measures as will prevent the increase of paupers, especially those who may become such by the intemperate use of ardent spirits." On that article, "In order to remove the principal cause of pauperism," the selectmen were instructed to enforce strictly the laws relating to licensed and unlicensed houses, and "to take such other measures for the suppression of intemperance as to them may seem advisable." In obedience to those instructions the selectmen posted the following:

"We hereby give notice that we shall proceed as the law of this state directs * * * * to post up a list of the names of those persons who are in the habit of drinking and tippling to excess."

(Signed) "Foster Alexander, Daniel Bradford, Eliphalet Briggs, Jr., } Selectmen of Keene."

The United States census for this year gave Keene a population of 1,895, a gain of 249 in ten years, notwithstanding the loss of seventy-five or more, set off to Roxbury;

[1] In 1822 there was an article in the warrant for the annual meeting: "To see if the town will vote to shorten the intermission between the forenoon and afternoon services on the Sabbath." It was dismissed.

Chesterfield, 2,103; Westmoreland, 2,029; Winchester, 1,849; Swanzey, 1,712. New Hampshire had 244,161; Boston, 43,275; New York, 123,706; Washington, 13,322.

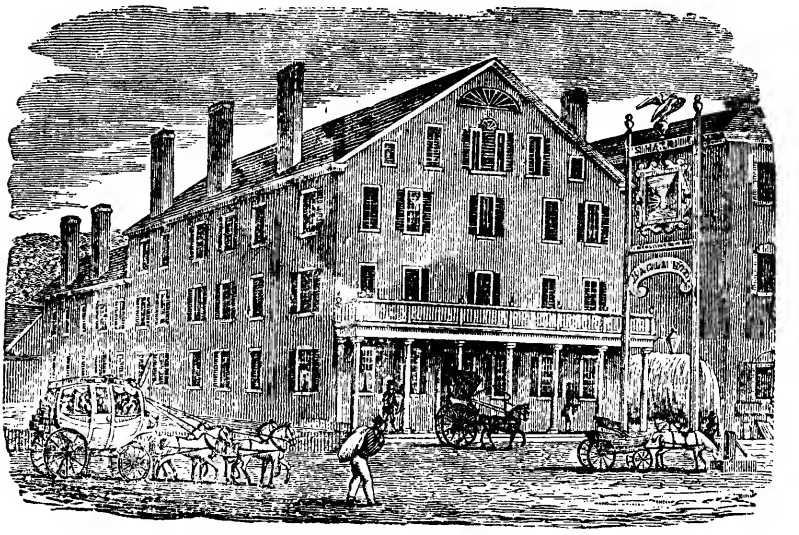
The great bulk of the population throughout the country was engaged in agriculture, and during the period covered by this chapter there was a larger proportion of the land in this town and county under cultivation than ever before; and soon afterwards that proportion began to diminish. The soil was still rich and productive, the farms were well cultivated, large areas were covered with a heavy growth of timber which protected the fields from cold winds, agriculture was remunerative, and the farmers were generally "well to do."

In 1816, the Cheshire Agricultural Society, which included in its territorial limits the present county of Sullivan, was incorporated. Among the members from Keene were Noah Cooke, Samuel Dinsmoor, Elijah Dunbar, Daniel Bradford and John Prentiss. Its first "cattle show" was held at Charlestown, in 1818; its third at Keene in 1820, on ground through which Emerald street now runs. The manufactures and fancy articles were displayed in the store which is now the north part of the City Hotel. The society formed a procession at Holland's tavern, formerly Sumner's, with a band of music, and marched to the grounds, where Rev. Mr. Barstow offered prayer, and Russell Jarvis, Esq., of Claremont, delivered an address. After viewing the exhibition the procession returned to the tavern, and 130 sat down to dinner. Gen. Samuel Dinsmoor was chosen president; Col. Thomas C. Drew, of Drewsville, vice president; Capt. Daniel Bradford, treasurer; Elijah Dunbar, secretary; and Thomas M. Edwards, librarian. For many years great interest was manifested, exhibitions were held in various towns in the county, and the leading men in the community gave the society their support and management. In 1819, $356 were paid out in premiums. In 1822, Hon. Salma Hale delivered the address at Acworth; in 1824, Hon. Joel Parker that at Westmoreland.

It was in 1816 also that the Cheshire County Bible Society was formed, afterwards merged in the state society.

The first meeting was held in the courthouse, Rev. Mr. Oliphant, chairman, and John Prentiss, secretary. Later, Rev. Z. S. Barstow was very active in the work of the society and served as secretary for many years, with Dan Hough, treasurer, and Rev. Seth Payson, Col. Joseph Frost, of Marlboro, Hon. Abel Parker, of Jaffrey, presidents at different times. Elijah Dunbar, Esq., Capt. Abel Blake, Dea. Abijah Wilder, Eliphalet Briggs, Azel Wilder, and other Keene men, served as directors.

There was a Young Mechanics' Association in Keene in 1816; the Female Charitable Society was in operation and met at the houses of members; and a Female Cent Society, a branch of the state society, met in the same way.



EAGLE HOTEL.

The public houses on the roads and turnpikes already mentioned were at the height of their prosperity. Salem Sumner was succeeded in 1820 by Ephraim Holland, and he, two years later, by George Sparhawk, in the one where the Cheshire House now stands. Benoni Shirtliff kept his tavern until 1823, when it was bought by Col. Stephen Harrington, who came from Nelson. He greatly improved it, gave it the name first of Harrington's Coffee House, afterwards that of Eagle Hotel, which it still retains; and

for more than fifty years the large and spirited figure of a gilded eagle, perched upon a wooden column, stood in front of the house as a sign. Upon the death of Ithamar Chase, in 1817, Jonathan E. Wadley succeeded him in the old Ralston tavern, and changed the name to the Keene Hotel.

On the 4th of July, 1820, 116 veteran soldiers of the Revolution residing in this county came together to comply with the law in relation to pensions.[1] They assembled at Wadley's Hotel, chose officers for the day, formed in procession and were escorted to the courthouse by the Keene Light Infantry.

The firm of Parker & Hough was dissolved in 1816, and Dan Hough continued the business for several years. Capt. Parker devoted himself to the manufacture of cotton and woolen machinery at Swanzey Factory, and a few years later went to Boston and established the commission business which was continued many years, under the noted firms of Isaac Parker & Co., Parker, Blanchard & Co., Parker, Wilder & Parker, etc. Phineas Fiske & Co. had removed from their store north of the Ralston tavern to the east side of the Square, next door south of Justus Perry, and had been succeeded there in 1816 by Lamson & Grout (Wm. Lamson, Jr., and Henry Grout). Royal Blake became partner with Lamson, in 1819, in place of Grout. George and Lynds Wheelock had a store on the east side of upper Main street next below the tavern, in 1816, and Lynds Wheelock continued in business there for several years. Collins H. Jaquith came to town in 1816, and carried on an extensive business in shoemaking. He was afterwards a prominent figure in town—well remembered by persons still living—and held important offices, among others the somewhat incongruous ones of deputy sheriff and deacon of the church.[2] Ridgway & Rockwood opened a store, in 1817, in the building which Noah Cooke had built in 1808, since known as the Nims building, where E. F. Lane's upper block now stands. They were

[1] They were required to make oath to the amount of property they owned, and if it exceeded $200, no pension was granted. Besides the names given in the chapter on that war, applications for pensions were made by Jesse Watts, Frederick Locke, Niles Beckwith, Chas. Emerson, Elias Hall and James Potts of Keene.

[2] It used to be said of him that "he was a little too sharp for a deacon and a little too dull for a sheriff."

succeeded, in 1819, by Samuel A. Gerould, who came to Keene that year and began his long career in business. In 1816, A. & H. Walker had a bookstore and bindery in the basement of the building next south of A. & T. Hall, and started a circulating library. Both the business and the library were continued in 1820 by Henry Thayer, and by his widow, Pamela Thayer, in 1822, over Gerould's store on the east side.

Cooking stoves were first introduced here in 1817, and were on exhibition at A. & T. Hall's. In 1820, an improved pattern was for sale at the Keene bookstore. Later, Dan Hough took the agency, and after that they were for sale at the tinshop of John P. Barber and other stores.

In 1820, Nathaniel Sprague, son of Hon. Peleg Sprague, opened a private school in the brick schoolhouse on School street—then recently built—a little to the southwest of the present Tilden schoolhouse. The next year his sister Elizabeth, from Miss Fiske's school, assisted him. The building was then taken for the public school of that district, and Mr. Sprague removed his school to the hall over Dan Hough's store.

The Cheshire bank, the only one in the county, was doing a fair business, but found it necessary to open its doors but two hours in the forenoon and two in the afternoon each day and to designate one day in the week for discounts. Samuel Grout, of Walpole, was president, Aaron Appleton, John Wood, Salma Hale, Josiah Bellows, David Stone and Henry S. Newcomb were directors; and Nathaniel Dana had been chosen cashier in 1813, and held that position for more than twenty years.

Transportation by water had proved so superior to that by teams that that subject became almost a craze with the public. In 1816, the legislature of Massachusetts appointed Loammi Baldwin (who gave us the Baldwin apple) and Prof. Farrar, of Harvard college, a committee to explore and survey a route for a navigable canal from the Connecticut to the Merrimac rivers. The Ashuelot, Contoocook and other rivers were examined, but the

scheme was found to be impracticable. The stores in Keene, however, were still selling tickets in the Union Canal Lottery, already mentioned.

The Ashuelot river "is a stream of much importance, and is made navigable for boats as far up as Keene, excepting a carrying place about the rapids at Winchester."[1] To appreciate the truth of the above statement at the time it was made we must remember that in the early days of this country there were no roads, no wheeled vehicles for carrying freight, and that every waterway that could be made available was used for transportation. Almost from the first settlement of Keene down to within the recollection of people still living, goods were bought in Hartford by the merchants in Keene and shipped by the Connecticut[2] and Ashuelot rivers. Mr. Wm. Lamson, the younger, was in trade here as late as 1841, and the fact of his shipping goods from New York and other southern cities by that route, in 1837-8, is well remembered.

The subject of clearing the Ashuelot and making it navigable for larger freight boats was agitated for many years, and finally culminated in 1819. Temporary locks were built around the falls in two places between Keene and Winchester. Lewis Page, who lived on the David Nims place on Prison street, obtained a grant from the legislature of the sole right to take tolls and navigate the Ashuelot from Faulkner & Colony's mills to the Connecticut river. With the aid of subscriptions he built a boat sixty feet long and of fifteen to twenty tons burden, named it the Enterprise, and floated it down to the head of the falls at Winchester. On Friday, the 19th of November, it made its first trip up the river, loaded with passengers. It arrived at Faulkner & Colony's mills with a display of banners and was welcomed by a crowd of people with cheers, the firing of cannon and the ringing of the town bell. A paragraph in the Sentinel giving an account of the event was headed with the cut of a full rigged ship and the announcement in large capitals:

"ASHUELOT RIVER NAVIGABLE!!"

[1] New England Gazetteer, published in 1839.

[2] In 1837, the writer saw freight unloading from a sloop, at a wharf, in Brattleboro, Vt.

House of Elijah Parker.

The agitation of the project for still further improving the river by canals and locks around the falls below Winchester continued, and five years later a correspondent of the Sentinel stated that a single boat running from Hartford brought 105 tons of freight in nine months to Winchester alone; and showed by figures and estimates that the business on the river would pay a fair return on an investment in the canal and other improvements. But the scheme was abandoned.

Upon opening up the navigation of the Connecticut river the Bellows Falls canal did a large business and the company published a tariff of tolls each year. It was usually seventy-five cents a ton for heavy goods for passing through the locks. The Middlesex canal was doing an extensive business, with warehouses for storing the goods, which were received and distributed by commission merchants; and transportation by heavy teams through this town was greatly increased.

At this period, 1820, the village of Keene was still little more than Main street. There was but one house on Roxbury street besides that of Dr. Edwards; Prison street was almost a barren waste; there were but three houses on the east side of the turnpike, north, and only those of Mr. John Prentiss, Dr. Joseph Wheeler (now the Tilden house), Elijah Parker (where Mrs. Joslin now lives), and the Sun tavern on the west side. All the rest north of the long row of horsesheds was open fields and pastures; and the same was true of those angular tracts between the five principal streets, now covered with streets and buildings. Although a few fine residences and other good buildings had been erected, as already mentioned, most of the structures in town, even those about the centre, were of wood, one story high, unpainted, and of very ordinary appearance. Appleton & Elliot's store on the corner was of brick, two stories high, but the tavern opposite, though of three stories, was a very ordinary looking wooden building; and the courthouse, also of wood, was unpainted. The old Ralston tavern was a low, wooden building, "painted a dirty yellow, with a red border around the bottom, standing with front steps reaching into

the street."[1] Nearly all the stores and shops were "ten-footers"—what we should now call shanties.

The ten highest taxpayers in 1820 were James Wilson, Henry S. Newcomb, Stephen Chase, William Lamson, David Carpenter, Ephraim Wright, Samuel Dinsmoor, Abel Blake, A. & T. Hall and Abijah Foster.

Among those who died in 1820 were Major Josiah Richardson, who had lived here nearly fifty years, aged seventy-four; Mrs. Mary Dwinnell, aged ninety-two, widow of Jonathan Dwinnell, who left ten children living, all with families, the youngest having also ten children; Nehemiah Towns, a Revolutionary soldier, aged seventy-two; Mrs. Hannah Hall, widow of Rev. Aaron Hall, aged sixty-six, and Ephraim Wright, aged sixty-two.

Rev. Z. S. Barstow was chosen "principal visitor" of schools again in 1821, with James Wilson, Jr., Salma Hale, Nathaniel Sprague, John Wood, Thomas M. Edwards and Elijah Parker visitors and inspectors; and this method of managing the schools continued until 1824.

The first theatrical performance advertised and given in Keene was at the hall in Holland's tavern, May 14, 1821. The play was Rev. Dr. Hawes' tragedy. "Douglass," followed by comic songs and a farce, "The Village Lawyer." Admission, fifty cents; children, half price. There was a Keene Musical Society at that time, which gave Handel's "Messiah," at the meetinghouse in the afternoon of Feb. 21. Admission, twenty-five cents.

In September, 1821, a remarkably high wind, called in some places a tornado, in others a "tremendous hurricane," passed along the Atlantic coast from the Carolinas to Maine. Buildings of all kinds were destroyed, trees uprooted, animals killed and many lives lost. The debris was carried in some instances twenty to thirty miles. In Keene it was a violent and destructive wind, but less so than in many other places.

Charles Rice, "an industrious and honest man," died in October, at the age of ninety-four. He was one of the thirty patriots who marched from Keene at the Lexington alarm in 1775, and was wounded at the battle of Bunker

[1] Rev. Z. S. Barstow, when he came here in 1818.

Hill. He had also served his country through the whole of the French and Indian war, 1756-60. He had lived some years in Surry.

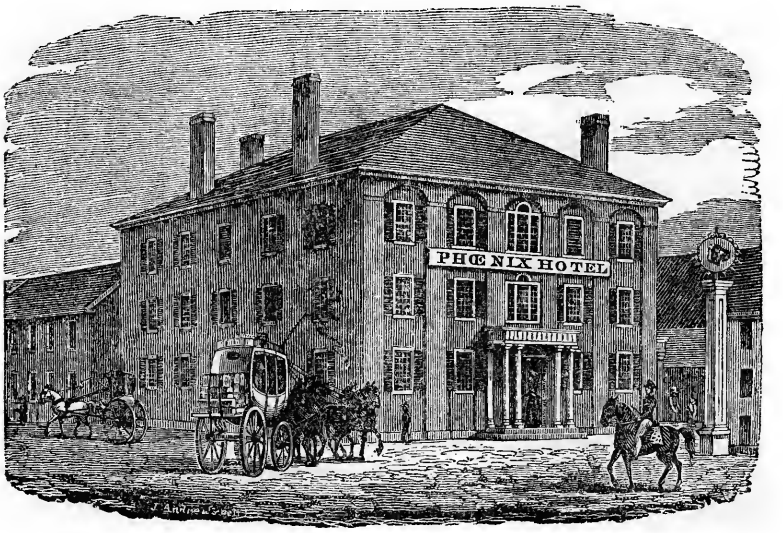
The third New Hampshire having been given up as a turnpike and the gates removed, the town voted to keep it in repair from the Marlboro to the Surry lines; and two years later laid out a town highway over the same route.

On Monday night, May 27, 1822, the large, three-story stage tavern on the site of the present Cheshire House, owned by Elijah Parker and Timothy Hall, and kept by George Sparhawk, was burned to the ground. The single engine of the town "and a small one from the glass factory," with the aid of citizens passing buckets of water, saved the stores of Lamson & Blake and Justus Perry on the north, only fifty feet away; and that of Lynds Wheelock on the south, only twenty feet away. The cistern of water on the common was soon exhausted, and then lines were formed to Beaver brook—one of men passing the full buckets and one of women and boys passing the empty ones. The roof of the meetinghouse took fire, but was extinguished by the engine. Fortunately there was very little wind, and the village was thus saved from a more serious conflagration.[1] The building was insured in the Ætna company for nearly its full value, and the sum was promptly paid. This fire roused the people to the importance of having a more efficient organization for extinguishing fires. A subscription was immediately started for the purchase of another engine; and the Keene Engine Co., John Elliot, clerk, called a meeting at Wadley's tavern, to choose officers, make by-laws and regulations, and to see if the company would purchase a new engine. The Keene Fire Society was also formed and continued for many years; and soon afterwards the Fire Fencibles were organized, with Samuel Dinsmoor, clerk.

The foundations for a new and larger house, to be called the Phœnix Hotel, were soon laid, and in December the Sentinel announced that a "large, commodious and elegant" brick hotel had arisen since the fire in May—

[1] It was provided by law that every village householder should keep a prescribed number of leathern fire-buckets on hand for use in case of fire. Some are still preserved as relics. They were made in this town by Daniel Watson.

52x56 feet, three stories high, with a hall 52x23 feet and a large dining hall—"an ornament to our village." It was kept by Mr. Sparhawk until 1825.



PHŒNIX HOTEL.

In September, 1822, the Twentieth regiment mustered here, closing with a sham fight. The Walpole artillery and the two light infantry companies from Keene and Westmoreland were highly praised. Young James Wilson, just from Middlebury college, now in his father's office, had taken command of the Keene Light Infantry and inspired it with new life and vigor. Their armory was at the north end of the village, in a field, where Armory street now runs.

Abijah Foster, one of the most successful men in town, died this year, aged fifty-nine; also, at the Island of St. Thomas, Lieut. Walter Newcomb, of the United States ship Spark, "late of the Columbus, seventy-four, son of the late Judge Newcomb of this town—an officer of promise and highly esteemed." (Sentinel.)

Hon. Samuel Dinsmoor had been nominated for governor in 1823 by the Democrats, and at the annual meeting the town, although strongly of the opposite party,

gave him 195 votes, to seventy-five for Levi Woodbury, the Federal candidate; but Mr. Woodbury was elected. Hon. Abel Parker, of Jaffrey, having served for more than twenty years as judge of probate for Cheshire county and reached the limit of age prescribed by law, retired from that position, and by the courtesy of Governor Woodbury, Mr. Dinsmoor was appointed in his place.

The 4th of July, 1823, was celebrated by a procession formed at the Phœnix Hotel and escorted by the Keene Light Infantry, Capt. Nathan Bassett, to the meeting-house, where Hon. Salma Hale read the Declaration of Independence, and Maj. Josiah Willard, Jr., delivered an oration. Returning to the hotel, a dinner with wine was served, toasts were drunk and speeches made.

The largest menagerie in the country containing Asiatic lions, tigers, buffaloes, elks, llamas, etc., exhibited in the rear of Wadley's tavern in 1822—the first in Keene—and again the next year at the same place.

In February, 1824, a destructive freshet, extending over all this section of country, carried away bridges, dams and mills. The bridges at South Keene, at Faulkner & Colony's mills and on the turnpike to Surry, were carried away or seriously injured.

At the annual town meeting in 1824 the price of labor on highways was fixed at six cents an hour for a man, or a pair of oxen, "boys and utensils in proportion;" and it remained the same until 1838, when it was raised to eight cents an hour for a man or a yoke of oxen.

The town had changed its by-laws in relation to schools, choosing a committee of five for the examination of teachers in addition to the seven visitors and inspectors. Rev. Z. S. Barstow, Joel Parker, Thomas M. Edwards, Samuel Dinsmoor and James Wilson, Jr., were that committee that year; and the same were chosen visitors and inspectors, with the addition of Aaron Appleton and Aaron Hall, with Rev. Z. S. Barstow, principal visitor. This method of supervising the schools continued for several years.

The amounts of postage received at the principal postoffices in the state at this time were: Portsmouth,

$3,355.17; Exeter, $654.31; Concord, $565.02; Keene, $536.74; Dover, $484.30; Walpole, $276.52. The old high rates of postage still existed.

There was emulation among the independent military companies, and great efforts were made by them for improvement in drill and discipline. In September, 1824, the Keene Light Infantry, Capt. Nathan Bassett, and the light infantry companies of Westmoreland and Brattleboro, marched to Chesterfield and encamped, and were joined by the Chesterfield Light Infantry, Capt. Barton Skinner. James Wilson, Jr., then lieutenant colonel of the Twentieth regiment, took command and exercised them in battalion drill. Early in October the Twentieth regiment, Col. Justus Perry, mustered in Keene and was inspected by Major Joel Parker and reviewed by Gen. Samuel Griffin of Roxbury. The two companies of cavalry, the Walpole artillery, and the two companies of light infantry from Keene and Westmoreland were very highly commended.

The Cheshire Agricultural Society had its exhibition at Winchester this year. Joel Parker, Esq., delivered the oration, Col. Thomas C. Drew was president, Thomas M. Edwards, secretary, Daniel Bradford, treasurer, and Abijah Wilder, Jr., one of the executive committee.

A new brick courthouse was built in 1824, the north half of which is now the store of Bullard & Shedd. The committee to sell the old house[1] and build the new one were John Wood, Aaron Appleton, Abijah Wilder, Jr., Eliphalet Briggs, Jr., and Thomas M. Edwards. In the corner stone of the new building were deposited a glass bottle containing a copy of the Sentinel of that week, the

[1] The old house was sold to Silas Angier and Eliphalet Briggs, and was hauled away to Prison street by James Keith with sixty yoke of oxen, and used for a boarding and tenement house. It was a long, narrow building, two stories high, afterwards bought by John H. Fuller, who divided it, moved one half to Railroad square and used it for a wool-house, and it is now the grain store of J. Cushing & Co., next to the Sentinel building. The other half Mr. Fuller used as a dwelling, on the site of the present residence of Mrs. D. M. Pollard, 256 Washington street, and when that brick house was built by Capt. H. T. H. Pierce, soon after the Civil war, the old wooden one was moved to the rear on Maple street, and is now the residence of Wm. L. Cheever, No. 26. The statement has been made that those two halves of a former building were parts of the old meetinghouse which was given to the county for a courthouse in 1788, but that is an error. That old meetinghouse, which stood, after its removal, on the northwest corner of the common, where Court street now comes in, was replaced by a new courthouse (the one above described), built on its site—largely by subscription—in 1796; and all trace of the old meetinghouse that fronted on "The Green" in Revolutionary days is lost, though it is believed that it was removed to the west side of Court street. (See account of fire on Court street in 1861).

New Hampshire Register for that year, and other documents. The main room, on the second floor, was ready for the use of the court at the October term. The town had appropriated $500 towards the building, reserving rights for a town hall on the ground floor—two or three steps below the level of the ground—as it had in the old building; and in November "voted to raise $150 to be appropriated towards finishing the Town Room in the New Court House." That meeting was for the national election, James Wilson, Jr., moderator, and cast 144 votes for the electors who voted for John Quincy Adams for president, to one for those of the opposite party.

Capt. Thaddeus Metcalf had died in 1823, aged sixty-six, and among the deaths in 1824 were those of Joseph Sylvester, aged eighty; John Balch, sixty-six; Widow Anna Draper, ninety; Mrs. Hannah, wife of Adin Holbrook, sixty-six; James Philips, seventy-eight; and Mrs. Hannah Wheeler, widow of Abraham Wheeler, one of the first settlers, aged one hundred and three. Mrs. Wheeler was the mother of Col. Abraham Wheeler, who had died in 1814 at the age of seventy-one.

The controversy in the church which resulted in the secession of the Unitarians had been growing more and more sharp and bitter for several years and had now reached culmination. On the 18th of March, 1824, the seceders organized their society under the general laws of the state, taking the name of the Keene Congregational Society, and they held services during that summer. They had twelve members, seven male and five female. Those who had desired to withdraw had refused to pay the tax assessed for the support of Rev. Mr. Barstow, had filed the required certificates to that effect with the town clerk, and claimed their right to the use of the meetinghouse their proportion of Sundays. At the annual meeting in 1823 the town "Voted (on raising Mr. Barstow's salary of $700) that the selectmen be instructed to raise the sum which shall bear the same proportion to the sum of $700 as the taxable property not signed off (by certificates) does to the whole taxable property of the parish;" and on the 3d of November of that year the town voted to

grant the use of the meetinghouse to the parties asking it five Sundays between that date and the first of May following, the selectmen to designate the Sundays. At the annual meeting in 1824, Mr. Barstow's salary was restored to $700, although the Unitarians had withdrawn; and the vote passed in the negative on the article, "To see if the town will vote the use of the meetinghouse to those persons in town who do not contribute to the support of Rev. Mr. Barstow and who have supported preaching the present year in the month of February."

The town then "voted that the town property in the meetinghouse, consisting of the building, the Bell; and the land on which the building stands, be offered at public sale by the selectmen on the 30th day of March inst.,"—notice being given—and the selectmen were authorized to convey the same by deed. It was provided, however, that the sale should be made to an authorized agent of some religious society organized according to law and that the sum paid should be sufficient to cover the value of all the pews, to be appraised by disinterested parties from out of town. The property was not sold.

The annual meeting of 1825 again reduced the salary of Rev. Mr. Barstow to a certain proportion of what the town had agreed to pay him, as in 1823; and the year following the selectmen were instructed to make a similar assessment; and that was the last time (1826) the salary of the minister was raised by legal assessment. He was no longer the minister of the town, and his salary was ever afterwards raised by his own society. The controversy concerning the proportional use of the meetinghouse, and the agitation for the sale of it, continued, and at a legal meeting on the 30th of March, 1825, Joel Parker, moderator, the town voted that a committee of thirteen, six from each of the two societies, be appointed by the selectmen—the twelve to choose the chairman—to consider the question of disposing of the edifice and report at the next annual meeting.[1]

[1] The selectmen appointed from the First Congregational Society: Elijah Dunbar, Timothy Hall, Azel Wilder, Dea. Thomas Fisher, Ebenezer Clark, Abel Blake. Keene Congregational Society: Salma Hale, Daniel Bradford, John Wood, Aaron Appleton, James Wilson, Jr., Samuel Dinsmoor. The chairman's name does not appear on the records.

In June, 1825, Mr. Thomas R. Sullivan, a candidate for the ministry, preached for the Keene Congregational Society in the town hall for several Sundays, afterwards accepted a call, and was ordained on the 30th of December. Rev. George G. Ingersoll, of Burlington, Vt., Rev. Mr. Gannett, of Boston, and others from Massachusetts, assisted in the ceremony.

In 1825, the annual town meeting was held for the first time in the new town hall under the courthouse. The number of ratable polls in town exceeded 450, and two representatives to the legislature were chosen, Joel Parker and James Wilson, Jr.

The 4th of July was celebrated by a military parade and dinner "on the plain one mile south of the village."

The Twentieth regiment, Justus Perry, colonel, B. F. Adams, adjutant, mustered in Keene, and was inspected by Lt. Col. Joel Parker, and reviewed by Gov. Morrill, who gave it high commendation.

At a legal meeting in November, 1825, the town voted to adopt certain parts of "an act to establish a system of police in the town of Portsmouth;" and the selectmen appointed Capt. Joseph Dorr, Zebadiah Kise, Elijah Parker, Esq., John Hatch, Col. James Wilson and Oliver Heaton police officers, the first in town.

Among those who died that year were Mr. Lynds Wheelock, aged forty-one; Dea. Daniel Kingsbury, eighty-two; Capt. Cyrus Breed, forty; and Lieut. Henry S. Newcomb, at sea, son of the late Judge Newcomb. Lieutenant Newcomb had commanded Fort Covington at one time in the late war, and was an accomplished officer.

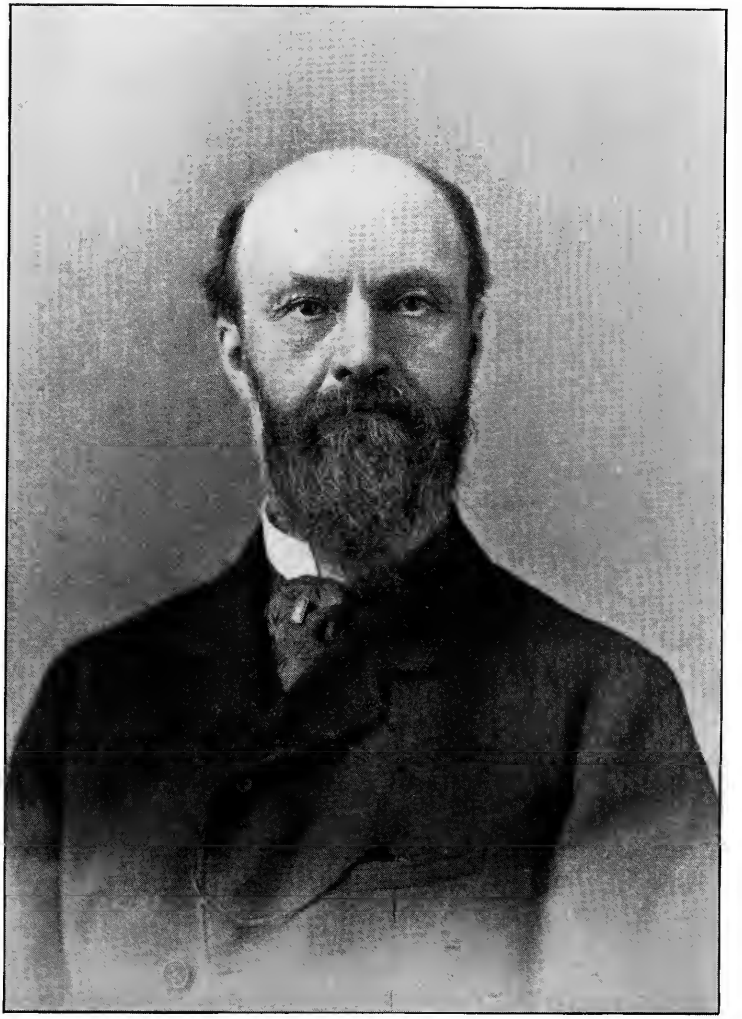
In 1825, the Phœnix Hotel passed into the hands of John Hatch, who had married the daughter of Dr. Thomas Edwards; and for many years Hatch's tavern had a high reputation, and was the principal stage house in town. At that time a watering trough stood in front of it, and there was still a passageway on the south side to the stable. Henry Coolidge succeeded Jonathan Wadley in the old Ralston tavern in 1823, kept an excellent house, and for a long term of years it went by the name of Coolidge's tavern. Col. Stephen Harrington also made the Eagle

Hotel a first-class hotel. The Sun tavern, on the turnpike, had been fitted up by Abijah Wilder, Jr., (doubtless his former cabinet shop) and was opened this year by Elias Mead, who kept choice liquors and made it an attractive inn. Daniel Day still kept his tavern on the Cheshire turnpike, east side of the river near the Surry line; Henry Goodnow on the third New Hampshire, near Walpole line; Stephen Chase continued at his place on the same "pike;" Josiah Sawyer on the Chesterfield and Thomas Gurler on the Westmoreland roads; Mrs. Susan Lanman at the foot of Marlboro street; William Lebourveau on Nine Lot Plain, opposite the present driving park—a part of the old house is still standing—and there were several others in different parts of the town. And the constant stream of travel through the town, particularly the freighting to and from the Middlesex canal and Boston, gave each and all of them a thriving business.

In 1823, Josiah Amidon opened the Grand Monadnock Hotel—"near the pinnacle of said Mountain;" and the following year John Fife "erects a building on the brook southeast of the pinnacle, Jaffrey side, and furnishes entertainment."

The first flour offered for sale at the stores in Keene was by A. & T. Hall in 1822. Previous to that time flour, meal and grain could be bought at the mills; and the farmers not only raised their own supply, but sold large quantities of grain. Justus Perry had taken John V Wood as partner in 1822, and continued the business of the store and the manufacture of glass bottles, decanters, etc., on Marlboro street, under the firm name of Perry & Wood. Lamson & Blake dissolved in 1822, and Wm. Lamson, Jr., continued the business alone. The same year, Wm. Lamson, senior, took his son Charles as partner in the tannery; and the son continued a successful business there until he died, in 1876. In 1823, George Tilden and John Prentiss formed the firm of Geo. Tilden & Co. in the bookbinding business, in the basement of the building next south of A. & T. Hall—where the Walkers and Henry Thayer had formerly been—entrance on the north side. They also sold books and stationery, and the next year

SUN TAVERN. BUILT ABOUT 1780.



SIMON G. GRIFFIN.

opened a circulating library of 200 volumes. That partnership continued but a short time. In 1825, Mr. Prentiss built a brick block on the west side of the Square (now Whitcomb's) removed his printing establishment into its upper stories, withdrew from the firm of Geo. Tilden & Co., and opened the Keene Book Store on the ground floor of the north half. Tickets in various lottery schemes were sold in both book stores. The Sentinel printing office remained in those quarters for forty-six years. S. A. Gerould also built his brick store, next north of Mr. Prentiss's, the same year, took in his brother, and for some years the firm was S. A. & J. H. Gerould; later he took his son, Samuel A., Jr., as partner, and they remained in that store as long as they were in business.

Richard Montague, a very gentlemanly and obliging man, came here in 1822, opened a shop over A. & T. Hall, and for a long term of years held the lead in making fine, stylish garments for gentlemen. He also made ladies' pelisses and other outside garments. Sylvester Haskell bought out Dan Hough in 1824, and the next year removed to the south store in Prentiss's new block.

In 1822, Elijah and Joel Parker formed the law firm of E. & J. Parker and had their office over A. & T. Hall's store. Foster Alexander and Thomas M. Edwards were also lawyers in town; and Mr. Edwards was still postmaster. In 1825 he put up a small building east of Lamson's store, on Roxbury street, and had his office and the postoffice there. It was afterwards the law office of Wheeler & Faulkner.

The Medical Society of Cheshire County had been formed, with Dr. Amos Twitchell president and librarian, and held its annual meetings in Keene. The other members from Keene were Dr. Daniel Adams, Dr. Charles G. Adams and Dr. Joseph Wheeler.

Abijah Wilder, Jr., built his new shop where the "Museum" now stands, in 1823, and moved into it with his cabinet, chair and sleigh manufacturing. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr., and John W. Briggs were in the same business—"three doors north of the meetinghouse"—on the west side of Prison street.

The mills of Faulkner & Colony were destroyed by fire early in the year, but they immediately rebuilt, with brick, and in September advertised "that their new mills are so far completed that they are ready to receive Wool to Card and Cloth to Dress."

George Page and Alvan Holman were making pumps and manufacturing lumber "at Page's mill, two miles East of Keene street," on the Roxbury branch—the mills since known as the peg factory. The Ebenezer Robbins mill on White brook had passed into the hands of Joel Kingsbury. Aaron Davis was turning out "Warranted hoes at his Factory two miles from Keene street"—at South Keene—and Nathan Wood, a noted blacksmith, manufactured the best of ploughs.

CHAPTER XVI.

TOWN AFFAIRS.

1826—1840.

The controversy between the Unitarians and the Orthodox Congregationalists in Keene entered into all the affairs of life to an extent that would seem incredible at the present day, and created much bitterness—in some cases even between those who had been the warmest friends.[1]

At the annual meeting in 1826, Hon. Salma Hale, from the committee appointed in 1825 to devise some satisfactory method of disposing of the meetinghouse, reported that several meetings of the committee had been held, but nothing had been accomplished. The town then voted to allow the Keene Congregational Society to use the edifice thirteen Sundays during the year ensuing, the particular Sundays to be designated by the selectmen; and that after that term, the selectmen then in office should fix the number of Sundays to be used by that society for four years following. In compliance with that vote the selectmen designated eighty-three Sundays in the four years beginning in June, 1827, on which the edifice might be used by that society.

During this year the first edition of the "Annals of the Town of Keene, from its first settlement in 1734 to the year 1790," by Hon. Salma Hale, was published by Moore, of Concord, N. H. They "were compiled at the request of the New Hampshire Historical Society," of which Mr. Hale was an active member, "and of several citizens of Keene."[2] At the annual meeting the town voted to instruct the selectmen to procure 400 copies of that work and distribute among the inhabitants, "provided that the expense does not exceed fifty dollars" (12½ cents a copy). About

[1] One of the wits of Keene said of the two societies that "one appeared to have religion without morals; the other, morals without religion."

[2] In 1851, a second edition, "with corrections, additions and a continuation to 1815" was published by J. W. Prentiss & Co. of Keene.

the same time appeared the "History of the United States" by the same author. In 1820, the American Academy of Languages and Belles Lettres had offered a premium of $400 and a gold medal to the American citizen who should within two years produce the best written history of the United States. Four books were entered by different authors and the premium for the best history was awarded to Mr. Hale. It was published in New York by Harper & Brothers, in London, by T. Miller, and at the Sentinel office in Keene. A few copies of the London edition were sold here.

The rapid increase of the population and the immense productions of the country brought the subject of transportation more and more prominently before the public. That by water, with the steamboat, which was fast coming into use, was the cheapest and most rapid then known. Large canal systems were already in successful operation, others were projected in all parts of the country, wherever there was a possibility of a practicable route, and rivers, large and small, were utilized. The canal commissioners of Massachusetts in 1826 reported a feasible route for a canal from Boston through Groton, Leominster, Fitchburg, Winchendon and down Miller's river to the Connecticut; and it was confidently announced that there would be "a land carriage of only twenty miles from here to the capital of New England." (Sentinel.)

A company was formed to improve the navigation of the Connecticut river from Hartford, Ct., to Barnet, Vt., 219 miles, 202 of which would be in slack water caused by dams or natural levels, and seventeen by canals. The fall was 420 feet, to be overcome by forty-one locks, the whole cost estimated at $1,500,000. The canal and locks at Bellows Falls cost $107,313. Large meetings were held and the subject was ably discussed, notably at Charlestown, in August, 1826. The company had steam towboats built for hauling freight; and an elegant new steamer for both passengers and freight, seventy-five feet long, fourteen feet wide, drawing two feet of water and "carrying 30 tons burden including its machinery." It was called the Barnet, and began making its trips in the autumn

of 1826. Her first arrival at Brattleboro was "greeted with the roar of cannon and the ringing of the bell." The company had a public dinner at the Mansion House, followed by toasts and speeches. Another steamer called the Enterprise[1] was put on, followed in 1829 by the Vermont, which had "a handsome cabin on deck," and carried 150 passengers to Charlestown on its first trip. In 1830, congress was asked for an appropriation to improve the river. In 1831, the steamer Hampden was added. The boats, making alternate trips, advertised to leave Bellows Falls, Westminster and Walpole for Hartford every Monday; Putney, Chesterfield, Brattleboro, Vernon and Hinsdale every Tuesday; Northfield and Gill every Wednesday; the returning boat leaving Hartford every Monday; carrying both passengers and freight.

The fiftieth anniversary of American independence was celebrated in Keene with great eclat. By a unanimous vote of the town a new bell for the meetinghouse had been procured and at sunrise it was rung, accompanied by twenty-four discharges of cannon. Aaron Appleton was chairman of the committee of arrangements, and Hon. James Wilson (senior) was president of the day, with Samuel Grant of Walpole, Elisha Belding of Swanzey, S. Cobb of Westmoreland, Nahum Parker of Fitzwilliam and Hon. Salma Hale of Keene, vice presidents. Gen. Justus Perry was chief marshal, with Majors Oliver Heaton and B. F. Adams assistants. At 11 o'clock a procession of several hundred citizens of this and neighboring towns, escorted by the Keene Light Infantry, Capt. Geo. Brown, marched to the meetinghouse, where religious services were held, Rev. Mr. Dickinson, of Walpole, and Rev. Mr. Leonard, of Dublin, assisting the pastor. The house was filled to overflowing. An oration was delivered by Rev. T. R. Sullivan, and patriotic music was rendered by the Keene Musical Society under the direction of Eliphalet Briggs, Jr. At the close of those exercises, 150 persons sat down to "a very handsome entertainment under an artificial bower," where thirteen regular and sixteen voluntary toasts were drunk, and responses made by the talented

[1] Believed to have been the one from the Ashuelot river, with steam added.

gentlemen present. The day was very generally celebrated throughout the country. It was on that day that both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died.

The first appearance of a circus in this town was in July, 1826. It stopped at the Phœnix Hotel, and concluded its exhibition with a play, "The Hunted Tailor." "Admission 25 cents. Children half price."

At its muster this year the Twentieth regiment was commanded by Col. James Wilson, Jr., Col. Perry having been promoted to brigadier general. When the militia of the state was reviewed by Gov. John Taylor Gilman in 1797 or '98, the Twelfth regiment, composed of the towns of Marlboro, Packersfield, Dublin, Jaffrey, Rindge and Fitzwilliam, was pronounced the best in the state; and for a long term of years that superiority was maintained. The Twentieth had been its constant rival for the first position, and this year, under Col. Wilson's command, it was given a slight preference.

For many years afterwards, 1826 was known in this region as the "grasshopper year," from the destructive ravages of that insect. They destroyed gardens, stripped currant bushes and shrubs of their leaves and bark, and in many cases utterly ruined the grass, corn, rye, oats and other crops. They would destroy clothes if left within their reach, and even ruin the wooden handles of farming tools if left out over night. They literally covered the ground and "would rise up before the passer in countless millions, sometimes obscuring the sun like a cloud." "The weather was dry and potatoes and other crops came to a standstill." But rain fell, the grasshoppers died after a few weeks' existence, and crops took a fresh start. Lilacs, and potatoes planted in May, blossomed in September.

The Cheshire Agricultural Society exhibited at Keene this year, the leading men of the county taking an active part in its affairs. Hon. Joel Parker was chief marshal, assisted by Col. Thomas F. Ames and Major Oliver Heaton. Col. James Wilson delivered the address; Levi Chamberlain, then of Fitzwilliam, was chairman of the committee of awards; and among those who served on committees were James Wilson, senior, Elijah Dunbar, William Lamson,

Jr., Capt. Joseph Dorr and Aaron Appleton. Mrs. Thomas Edwards took a premium for the best carpet, and Samuel Wadsworth, of Roxbury, took one for the best product of potatoes, having raised 491 bushels on one acre of land.

The notable persons who died this year were David Nims (at his son's in Roxbury), one of the first persons born in Keene, aged eighty-four; Joshua Ellis, the Revolutionary soldier wounded at Bunker Hill, aged seventy-four; Ezra Wilder, aged eighty-five; Cornelius Sturtevant, an early settler, aged ninety-one; Mrs. Mary, widow of Major Davis Howlett, aged eighty-seven; Dr. Joseph Wheeler, aged forty-six; and Mrs. Mary H., wife of Gen. Justus Perry, aged twenty-one.

In January, 1827, there was a term of remarkably cold weather. For five successive mornings the mercury did not rise higher than 10° below zero, and on one morning it was 27° below. Lake Champlain was completely closed with ice, and Boston harbor was frozen over as far down as Nantasket Roads. Snow was four feet deep on a level —six feet on the Green Mountains.

At the annual meeting the town raised $500 for fencing burying grounds. The firewards this year were Capt. Joseph Dorr, Timothy Hall, Abijah Wilder, Jr., John Hatch, Joel Parker and James Wilson, Jr. In November, in compliance with a law passed the year before, they posted printed rules and regulations in relation to fires; and gave notice that they would inspect the buildings in town, that the required ladders must be put up, and the leathern fire-buckets kept constantly on hand.

The question of dividing Cheshire county had been agitated for many years, and petitions for such an act had been presented to the legislature setting forth the need on account of "the great increase of population and of the business in the probate and judiciary courts and the registry of deeds." This year an act was passed creating the county of Sullivan and making Keene the sole shire town of Cheshire.

A committee consisting of Rev. Z. S. Barstow, Rev. T. R. Sullivan, Hon. Salma Hale, Samuel Dinsmoor, Jr., and James Wilson, Jr., was chosen "to take into consideration

the state of the common schools in the Town and devise such measures as may be practicable and expedient for their improvement." No report of that committee has been found, but the committee on examination of teachers that year, —Rev. T. R. Sullivan, Joel Parker, Thomas M. Edwards, Salma Hale and John Prentiss—prescribed the following textbooks to be used in the schools: "Lee's Spelling Book;" "Easy Lessons in Reading;" "History of the United States;" "English Reader;" the Scriptures; "Scientific Class Book;" Murray's and Putnam's grammars; Worcester's and Woodbridge's geographies; Adams' arithmetic, old and new, and Pike's arithmetic in full.

A mail had run between Keene and Worcester since about 1800. In 1826, a line of stages was put on via Templeton and Worcester to Norwich, Ct., to connect with steamers to New York, three times a week. For a year or two previous to this, the line had run in the same way to Providence, making a similar connection to New York. In 1827, a line of daily mail stages was established which ran from Boston through Keene to Middlebury, Burlington and Montreal, following the route of the third New Hampshire turnpike and connecting with other lines at all large towns. A competing line ran on the Cheshire turnpike and Branch Road Company's route through Rindge and Fitzwilliam, crossing the other line at Keene and going on through Surry, Drewsville and Charlestown to Woodstock and Montpelier, and also to Windsor and Hanover; thus giving Keene two daily lines to and from Boston. The companies often furnished six horses to the coach, and for many years staging was a lively and important business. It was not uncommon for sixty to one hundred passengers to arrive and depart in a day, and nearly all the coaches stopped for the night in Keene. Hatch's and Harrington's taverns were the stage-houses for the competing lines. Those lines bore various names at different times, as the "Old Mail;" the "Union;" the "Telegraph Despatch;" the "Citizens';" the "Boston, Fitchburg & Keene Mail Stage Co." etc. The quickest time recorded between Boston and Keene was made on the 27th of December, 1831, in nine hours and twenty-seven minutes,

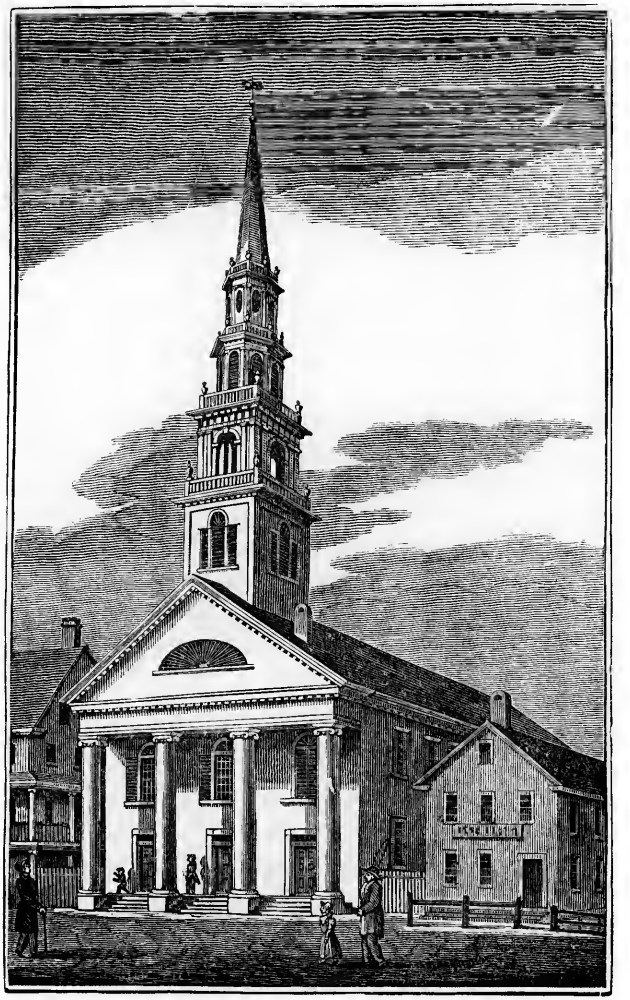
from the toll-house in Cambridge to Harrington's tavern in Keene, stopping eight or nine times to shift mail and horses. The passage was made from Concord on runners. There was also at one time a line to Greenfield and Northampton, connecting at Hartford with steamboats to New York; and one running three times a week from Portsmouth and Exeter to Keene and thence through Brattleboro to Albany and the west.

In August, Aaron Davis's blacksmith shop and trip-hammer works at South Keene were burned; and Jehiel Wilson's pail factory—the first in New England to make pails by machinery—was damaged by the same fire. Both were immediately rebuilt.

Eliphalet Briggs, third of that name in town, died this year, aged sixty-two; Ephraim Wilson, aged fifty-seven; and Royal Blake, aged seventy-two.

At the annual meeting in 1828, the town "Voted to grant and convey all the right, title and interest of the town of Keene in and unto the meeting House now standing on the common at the head of Main street, with the appurtenances, to the First Congregational Society in said town;" reserving, however, to the town the right to use the house and the bell on public occasions, and the right to hang a bell in the belfry and control and use it on such occasions; but on the Sabbath the society was to have full control. In case the town neglected for six months at any time to provide a bell its rights were to be forfeited. But the vote was not to take effect until bonds had been given to the town by said society for the removal of the house to its present position, without expense to the town, within eighteen months from the passing of the vote (a deed of the land for its future site having been given by Abijah and Azel Wilder); nor until said society had paid to the Keene Congregational Society the sum of $750 and procured a release to the town from that society of its claims to the meetinghouse; and also a release from Joseph Dorr and his wife, Rebecca Richardson Dorr, of their rights and interests in the land on which the house then stood, and in the common—the limits of which were defined and were nearly the same as the present Square,

which was "to be forever appropriated for a common and public highway." When all these conditions had been com-



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH—1829.

plied with, the selectmen were to give a deed of the building to said First Congregational Society [1] That society

[1] This was the final separation of the church from the town in Keene, except that the town retained control of the house and bell on public occasions until the annual meeting in 1840, when final action was taken on the 16th article of the warrant.—"To see if the town will relinquish all the right, title and interest in the old meeting-house except the use of the bell for town purposes, or raise money to repair the same"—by voting "that the town relinquish their claim."

accepted the proposition of the town, with all its provisions, and during that season and the one following the edifice was removed to its present position (by means of a windlass), turned one-quarter round,[1] remodelled and finished. The entrance was by broad stone steps on which stood four tall Corinthian pillars supporting the front of the steeple—a fine, graceful structure one hundred and thirty feet high, built by William Wilson of Keene, the organ maker. The work was done through different committees, consisting of Abijah Wilder, Jr., Azel Wilder, Abel Blake, Timothy Hall, William Lamson, Jr., S. A. Gerould, C. H. Jaquith, Enos Holbrook, Nathan Bassett, Eliphalet Briggs, Dea. Elijah Carter and Elijah Parker, the clerk of the society.

The question of enlarging and improving the common had been agitated for several years, particularly by A. & A. Wilder, who owned the land on the north side, gave that for the site of the meetinghouse and moved the edifice at their own expense. As early as 1820, meetings had been held by those interested, money subscribed, and action taken with a view to removing the meetinghouse, dispensing with the horsesheds and enlarging the Square. This year the change was made as related; A. & A. Wilder erected "Wilders' building" on the north; and William Lamson, Jr., had built his three-story brick block on the corner of Roxbury street, where the Bank block now stands, in 1827.

In compliance with a law passed in 1827, the selectmen this year appointed a superintending school committee, consisting of Rev. Z. S. Barstow, Rev. T. R. Sullivan, Joel Parker, Elijah Parker and Thomas M. Edwards; and each district chose a prudential committee.

In March, Mr. Beniah Cooke,[2] who had been "Preceptor of Fitchburg Academy" opened a school for instruction "in the several branches usually taught in our Academies" in a room over Sylvester Haskell's store, where the Sentinel building now stands, with the entrance on the

[1] "Old Capt. Samuel Bassett, the carpenter and Revolutionary soldier, sawed off the posts and men and boys pulled the steeple over with ropes." (W. S. Briggs and N. B. Starkey.)

[2] He married a daughter of Col. Stephen Harrington and was for many years editor and publisher of the Cheshire Republican and Farmers' Museum, the Silk Grower, and other publications.

north side. He afterwards called it the Keene Academic School, and continued it for several terms very successfully, having nearly 100 pupils.

But in December, 1828, the Keene High school was established by the citizens of the three central districts of the town, under certain restrictions and regulations. The candidates for admission were examined by a committee chosen for that purpose, the first being composed of Rev. T. R. Sullivan, Aaron Hall and Phineas Fiske. It was managed by a prudential committee consisting of Rev. Z. S. Barstow, Eliphalet Briggs and Abijah Wilder, Jr. It was taught in the east room of the Wilder building by Mr. Edward C. Ellis, a graduate of Middlebury college. He was succeeded the next year by Mr. A. H. Bennett, who was afterwards a lawyer at Winchester.

The town appropriated $125 for the purchase of a cast steel bell[1] for the west (Baptist) meetinghouse, to weigh not less than 600 pounds.

At the meeting of the legislature, in June, Hon. Salma Hale presided as chairman when Col. James Wilson was elected speaker of the house.[2] Upon the introduction of a bill by Hon. Salma Hale, the First Congregational Society in Keene was incorporated.

The 4th of July was celebrated in much the same way that it had been two years previous.

A large and enthusiastic convention of the Whigs of Cheshire county was held in Keene, on the 9th of October, in opposition to the movement in favor of Andrew Jackson for president. Hon. Joel Parker presided, Larkin G. Mead was secretary, and Col. James Wilson and Thomas M. Edwards were the principal speakers. At the national election in November, 1828, Keene cast 346 votes for the Adams' electors, to 107 for those of the Jackson party.

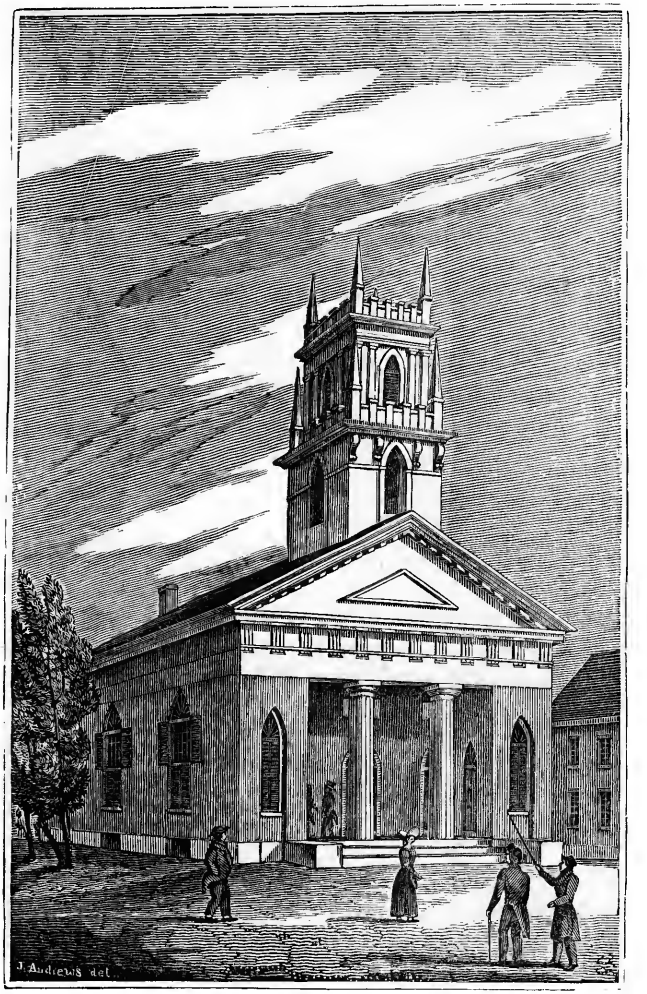
A remarkable rain-storm, lasting two days and extending over all New England, occurred in November. Mills, dams, bridges and fences were swept away and crops

[1] That bell is still in use in the tower of the Baptist church, on Court street.

[2] His term as speaker continued but one year, the "Hurrah for Jackson" carrying the state Democratic in November. He built his large brick house the same year—now the residence of Mr. Isaac J. Dunn, 129 Main street, and soon afterwards built the present City Hotel, named at first the Workingmen's Hotel and kept by Edward Whitney. Two years later the name was changed to Emerald House. Still later the brick store north of it was joined to the hotel.

destroyed. The Connecticut river rose more than twenty feet, and was higher than had been known for forty years.

Among those who died this year were William Lamson, senior, aged sixty-four, Samuel Osgood, seventy-one, and Zachariah Tufts, a Revolutionary pensioner who served with credit in Morgan's celebrated corps of riflemen.



UNITARIAN CHURCH—1829.

The first Unitarian meetinghouse was built in 1829, on the south corner of Main and Church streets. The building committee were John Wood, Justus Perry, John

Elliot, Francis Faulkner, and James Wilson, Jr. Placed beneath the corner stone was a copper plate bearing this inscription:

"On the Fourth Day of July,
A. D. 1829,
THE CORNER STONE
of this house
Erected by the Keene Congregational Society,
Aided by a donation from William Lamson,
And Dedicated to the worship of the Only True GOD,
In the name of JESUS CHRIST, whom he hath sent,
Was placed with religious ceremonies.
T. R. Sullivan, Pastor."

It was dedicated in April following, Rev. Mr. Barrett, of Boston, Rev. Dr. Bancroft (father of the historian), of Worcester, and Rev. Mr. Abbott, of Peterboro, assisting. With Mr. Lamson's legacy of $1,500.00, subscriptions, and the sale of pews, the society started not only free from debt, but with sufficient funds to purchase an organ—the first church organ in town—built by Pratt of Winchester and played by Miss Juliette Briggs. The bell, cast by Revere, weighed fifteen hundred pounds, and is still in use, in the tower of the new Unitarian meetinghouse. A few years later a town clock, made by Mr. Holbrook of East Medway, Mass., the gift of Mr. John Elliot, was placed upon the tower.

This period, culminating about 1825 and continuing for many years afterwards, was one of remarkable brilliancy in the society of Keene. The town was noted for its high social standard, for the refinement and culture of many of its inhabitants, and for its many accomplished and lovely women who gave tone to that society, among whom were the wife of Major Josiah Richardson and his daughter, Mrs. Joseph Dorr; Mrs. Daniel Newcomb and her sisters-in-law, Mrs. Daniel Adams and Mrs. George Ingersoll;[1] Mrs. Samuel Dinsmoor; Mrs. Aaron Hall; Mrs. James Wilson; Mrs. Elijah Dunbar and her sisters, Mrs. Ithamar Chase,[2] Mrs. Wm. M. Bond and Mrs. James H. Bradford; Mrs. Salma Hale; Mrs. Aaron Hall, Jr., and Mrs. Timothy Hall;[3] Mrs. Z. S. Barstow; Mrs. Aaron

[1] Of the Goldthwaite family of Boston.
[2] Daughter of Alexander Ralston and mother of Salmon P. Chase.
[3] One of the wits of Keene said of those ladies that "one was the immaculate Mrs. Hall, the other the aromatic Mrs. Hall," from the profusion of flowers with which she adorned her home and provided for entertainments.

Appleton; Mrs. Azel Wilder; Mrs. Phineas Fiske; Mrs. Henry Dorr; Miss Catherine Fiske; and many others deserving of mention.

There was also a brilliant array of able men, as may be seen from the names already mentioned.

It was in 1829 that the Keene Debating Society, afterwards named the Keene Forensic Society and Lyceum, was formed; and it continued for many years with great success. The names of its members represent a tower of intellectual strength such as few country villages could present. Among them were those of Joel Parker, Salma Hale, James Wilson, Jr., Z. S. Barstow, T. R. Sullivan, A. A. Livermore, Samuel Dinsmoor, Jr., Elijah Parker, John Elliot, Justus Perry, Thomas M. Edwards, Aaron Hall, Charles G. Adams, John B. Dousman, John Prentiss, Phineas Fiske, Nathaniel Dana, Benj. F. Adams, Phineas Handerson, Levi Chamberlain, John H. Elliot, and Wm. P. Wheeler, whose name was the last signed to the constitution. Their constitution was headed with the preamble, "Whereas intellectual culture and a knowledge of science and the arts are important to the best interests of society, and indispensably requisite for the stability and prosperity of a free government," etc. Hon. Joel Parker was its first president, with Rev. Z. S. Barstow and Rev. T. R. Sullivan vice presidents. The meetings were held in the town hall, open to the public, and a lecture preceded the debate. One of the questions debated soon after the organization was, "Would it be advantageous to the public and to Keene to construct a railway from Boston through Keene to the Connecticut river?"

There was also a large number of men and women of refinement and literary taste and culture not mentioned in the above categories; and other societies for intellectual improvement were formed. The Keene Book Society had been organized in 1824 and its annual meetings were held in the town hall. Its membership in 1827 numbered 122 and its officers were the leading men of the town. Addresses were made each year, and the list of speakers contained the names of the most brilliant and learned men in the country. In 1831 this society was merged in the Keene

Circulating Library, which had been in existence many years, and the combined library numbered one thousand volumes. It was under the management of George Tilden and was open every day except Sunday. The Social Library of former days was still in existence, with Noah Cooke librarian, at the time of his death, in 1829. Some of its volumes are still in the Keene Public Library.

Then there was a Cheshire Athenæum, whose officers at this time were Joel Parker, president; James Wilson, Jr., vice president; Elijah Parker, treasurer and librarian; Timothy Hall, registrar; and Rev. Z. S. Barstow, Aaron Hall and George Tilden, trustees. It had six hundred volumes. There was also a Cheshire Theological Institute, a corporation in which many of Keene's prominent men held shares, designed[1] to furnish the clergymen of the county with literature that might aid them in their work. It had a library of about 700 volumes.

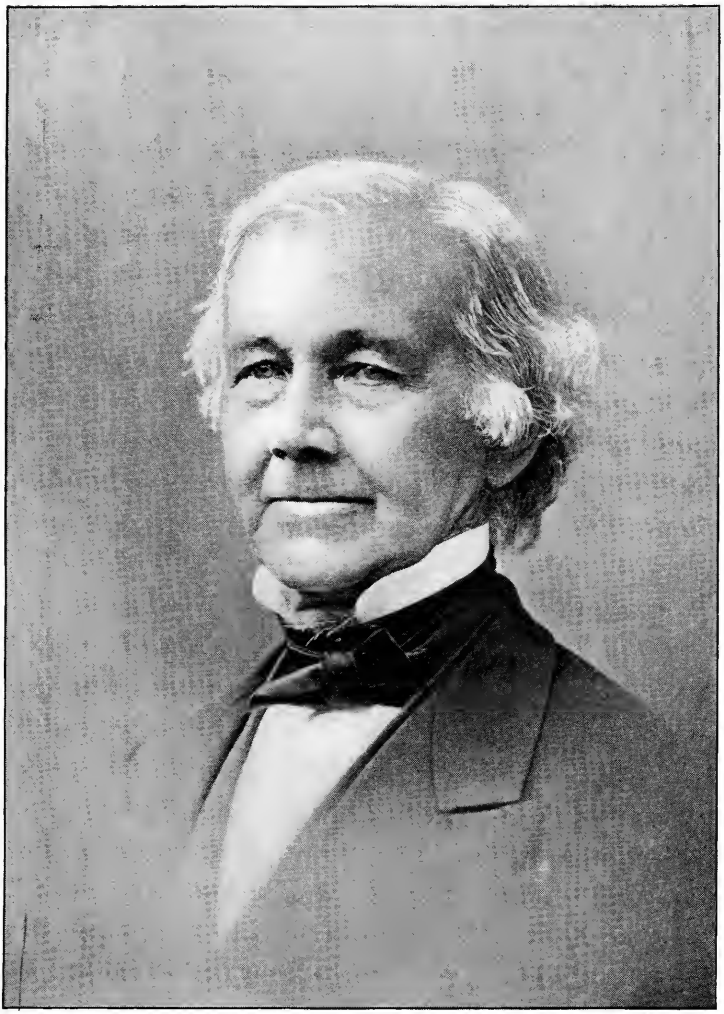
Besides these there was a Free Fellows' Society; an Auxiliary Education Society, Capt. Abel Blake, chairman; a Youth's Social Fraternity; a Juvenile Library, Rev. T. R. Sullivan, librarian; a Sabbath School library of the First Congregational church containing 550 volumes; and a Poker and Tongs Club.

The Masonic bodies were in a flourishing condition, and leading men of the town, including Col. James Wilson, John Prentiss and John Hatch, were active members.

There was the Keene Musical Society, already mentioned; the Keene Harmonic Society; and the Keene Musical Association—formed in 1831—all of which aspired to the rendering of classical music; and the Cheshire County Sacred Music Society, which held most of its sessions in Keene, was composed largely of Keene people. The Handel and Haydn Society's collection of church music had just then been published and gave new impetus to the cultivation of the art of singing.

There were two bookstores in town, kept by John Prentiss and George Tilden, and two weekly newspapers, besides a Unitarian monthly called the Liberal Preacher, begun in 1827, with Rev. T. R. Sullivan as editor. It was

[1] See sketch of Rev. Dr. Barstow.



GEORGE TILDEN.

published at the Sentinel office for several years and finally passed into the hands of George Tilden.

There were many other organizations for the promotion of temperance, charity and other good works—the Tract Society of Keene; the Ladies' Cent Society, of which Mrs. Barstow succeeded Mrs. Hall as president; the Heshbon Society, Miss Olive Prime, president, Miss Hannah Newcomb, secretary and treasurer, and Miss Lucretia Dawes and Miss Newcomb, prudential committee; and the Ladies' Charitable Society,[1] of which again Mrs. Barstow succeeded Mrs. Hall as president, and held the office for nearly half a century. The two latter societies are still in flourishing condition. There was an association of men and another of women in aid of foreign missions.

Much was done at this period for the cause of temperance. A large meeting for that purpose was held in Keene in October, 1829, at which Joel Parker, Gen. Wilson, Thomas M. Edwards and other prominent men made addresses. And such gatherings were frequent throughout the country. The Cheshire County Temperance Society was formed which survived for many years, usually holding its meetings at the town hall in Keene. Dr. Amos Twitchell was its first president, followed by Joel Parker and other men of influence. Previous to that the same class of men had organized the Association of Keene for Discountenancing the Use of Ardent Spirits, and much active work was done by that society, and many powerful appeals and addresses were made to the public. Another society was formed called the Keene Temperance Association, and a little later the Young People's Association for the Promotion of Temperance. Intoxicating liquors were sold at all public houses and most of the stores, by the glass and in larger quantities—either with license or without—and the use of them was so general and excessive as to become alarming; hence the vigorous action above indicated.

[1] The Ladies' Charitable Society was formed in 1815 as a reading society, meeting once a week and reading the Bible and other religious works, and the same year it opened a Sabbath school. The next year it established a charity school, and bought wool and had it carded and spun to be knit by the society—and cotton yarn to be woven—for the poor and destitute. In 1820, it made clothing and sent to the Indians, and in 1824, it appropriated twenty dollars to aid the Greeks in their struggle for independence. An extended historical report of the society, by Mrs. Catherine P. Dinsmoor, with the original preamble of its rules and regulations, was published in the Sentinel of Dec. 19, 1876.

John Hatch still kept the Phœnix Hotel; Col. Stephen Harrington the Eagle; Henry Coolidge the old Ralston; Daniel Day and Henry Goodnow theirs on the respective turnpikes; Joseph and Robert Shelly the one at the junction of those routes, formerly the Widow Leonard's; Josiah Sawyer was keeping his popular house in Ash Swamp; Abijah Metcalf the Sun tavern, also an excellent house; Samuel Streeter had one on the Westmoreland road; and a little later Asa Lincoln kept one on the Chesterfield road near the town line.

The attorneys in town were Samuel Dinsmoor, James Wilson, Elijah Dunbar, Joel Parker, Elijah Parker, Thomas M. Edwards, Samuel Dinsmoor, Jr., and James Wilson, Jr. The physicians were Daniel Adams (died in 1830), Amos Twitchell, Charles G. Adams and John B. Dousman. Dr. C. Stratton, the dentist, was making occasional visits to Keene and other towns, beginning in 1826.

Appleton & Elliot had continued in business at the corner store[1] and in the manufacture of glass until 1826, when that firm was dissolved, Mr. Appleton retired, John Elliot & Co.[2] took the glass business, and Adams & Holman[3] took the store the second time, the firm changing in 1828 to Adams, Holman & Wood, and in 1830, to Adams, Holman & Dutton (Ormond D.) which continued till 1835.

In the autumn of 1827, William Lamson occupied his new brick block, corner of Roxbury street. He had, as successive partners, John T. Hale, George Dutton and Franklin H. Cutting. The firm of Lamson, Cutting & Co. continued for many years. Sumner Wheeler succeeded Perry & Wheeler, continuing the manufacture of glass bottles with the business of the store. Capt. Jesse Corbett still carried on his watch repairing, jewelry and lottery ticket business, but was succeeded a few years later, as jeweler, by Norman Wilson, who remained for many years.

Richard Montague, the merchant tailor, had removed to a store on the west side of the Square, and in 1827, took William Dinsmoor as partner. The firm changed names several times, but Mr. Montague continued in business

[1] Adams & Holman took the store in the spring of 1821, but in the autumn of 1822 it passed back into the hands of Appleton & Elliot.
[2] John Elliot, Oliver Holman and Benj. F. Adams.
[3] Benj. F. Adams and Oliver Holman.

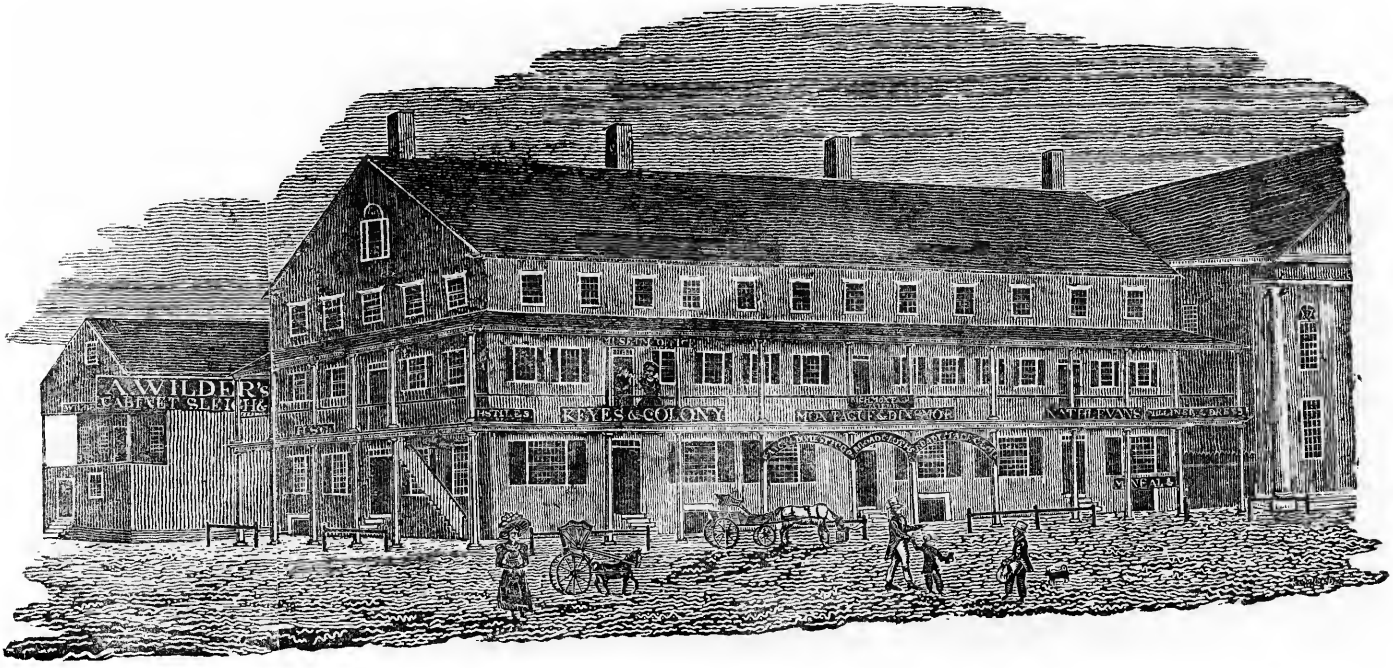
KEYES & COLONY BLOCK, AND VIEW OUT WEST STREET.

until 1835. In 1833, Mr. Dinsmoor formed a partnership with Selden F. White, at No. 2 Wilders' building. The firm soon became Dinsmoor, White & Lyon, and was the first in town to sell ready-made clothing. The change in the national administration brought about the removal of Thomas M. Edwards and the appointment of Mr. Dinsmoor as postmaster, and he removed the office to his store. In 1836, Selden F. White took the business of the store and carried it on for several years.

Upon the completion of Wilders' building in 1828, Keyes & Colony (Elbridge Keyes and Joshua D. Colony) took the west store and kept a general assortment of goods. Five years later they built and moved into their own three-story brick building, on the corner of West street, the site of the present postoffice building, and remained in business there for many years. There was a hall in the upper story of their building. They were succeeded in Wilders' by Jacob Haskell, with a silk and dry goods store. Sylvester Haskell had occupied a store on the west side of the Square, and in 1827, he removed "to the new brick store," where the Sentinel building now stands, and kept a general assortment of goods there for several years.

The cut of Wilders' building shown on the following page is from an original wood engraving made soon after the block was built. It is the property of Miss Frances M. Colony, 143 West street, through whose kindness it is now used.

Some matrimonial ventures came about in the course of trade in town. Miss Abagail Woods, daughter of Elijah Woods, kept a milliner's shop over S. A. Gerould's store, east side of Main street, afterwards over A. & T. Hall's. In 1827, she married J. Gilman Briggs, who was afterwards in business here with his brother, Eliphalet Briggs. The same year Miss Maria V. Wood, a milliner, sister of John V., married Dea. Asa Duren, the baker. A few years later, Miss Harriet Keyes, sister of Elbridge Keyes, who had a milliner's shop in Wilders' building, afterwards over Keyes & Colony's store, corner of West street, married Nathaniel Evans, a popular merchant who came from



WILDERS' BUILDING IN ITS EARLY DAYS.

Sullivan and was in business here many years. She bought the old Capt. Richardson tavern on West street and they made their home there, leaving it, at her death, to her sister (Susan), Mrs. Harvey A. Bill, who was the last to occupy it.

Dexter Anderson came in 1827 and was the fashionable hatter here for many years. He began business on the east side of Main street. Afterwards his shop was on the north side of the Square, east of the church, and is now the dwelling house of Dr. G. C. Hill on Winter street.

At this period, 1830, Faulkner & Colony were still dressing cloth and carding wool into rolls for families to spin and weave. Azel Wilder, near them, was making wheel-heads for hand spinning; Luther Smith, the brass founder, was still making the tall clocks, as in former years; the Briggses and Abijah Wilder, Jr., were manufacturing large quantities of cabinet-work, chairs, sleighs, etc.; Jennings & Perkins—afterwards Charles P. Perkins—had a carriage manufactory on Washington, north corner of Mechanic street; and Charles Ingalls, and Joseph Wheeler the portrait painter with him for a time, had a shop over them for sign and ornamental painting. Thomas F. Ames was making chaises, and he and the Watsons, father and son, were making saddles, harnesses, etc.; Col. Stephen Harrington and his son-in-law, William King, had a tannery and a curriers' shop in rear of Eagle Hotel, with a leather and shoe store on the street, and a morocco dressing establishment, in which they were succeeded by Josiah Burnap. Page & Holman still had turning works and made pumps on the North branch; Aaron and Oliver Wilson the same at their mills in Ash Swamp; and Jehiel Wilson made pails at South Keene. Dea. Samuel Wood, Jr., had succeeded his father as baker, removing from the Lamson building on the west side of Main street to the north corner of Main and Church streets, where a bakery was kept until 1900. He was succeeded by his brother, Amos Wood, and later by Dea. Asa Duren. Jeduthan Strickland had a distillery on the south side of the road just beyond Sawyer's tavern, at West Keene, but at this period he distilled only cider brandy.

The principal blacksmiths in 1830 were Aaron Davis, John Towns, Nathan Wood, Jabez Daniels, James Wilson, 2d, and Nathaniel Wilder; and they made axes, knives and other edge-tools by hand. The principal carpenters and builders were Nathan Bassett, Samuel Crossfield, Kendall Crossfield, John G. Thatcher and Everett Newcomb. The principal shoemakers were Abijah Kingsbury, Dea. C. H. Jaquith and Capt. George Brown, commander of the Keene Light Infantry. John C. Mason was the gunsmith, on Winter street; Whitcomb French had a livery stable, succeeding John Chase, the first in town, on the site of the present one on Washington street, and remained there for many years—an important institution of the town. He owned the house and lived where Mrs. J. G. Warren now does.

Alonzo Andrews[1] had a private school "over John Towns' blacksmith shop, one door north of the Bank," and Alphonso Wood had one in the Prentiss building, each for a few terms. Previous to that, Osgood Herrick taught a grammar school in Harrington's hall. Miss Fiske's school was called the Young Ladies' Seminary, and was exceedingly successful, numbering about one hundred pupils. She employed two assistants besides Miss Eliza P. Withington, who remained with her constantly. Reuel Blake taught writing and bookkeeping in chambers on the west side of the Square.

In November, 1829, John Towns' two-story brick blacksmith's shop, next north of the bank, was burned; but it was immediately rebuilt and reoccupied by Mr. Towns, the upper room being used by the Debating Club and for schools.

There were two fire companies and two engines in town, captains, John V. Wood and Jonas B. Davis, besides the Keene Fire Society, sixty-four members, S. Dinsmoor, president, succeeded about this time by John Wood, president, with T. M. Edwards, secretary, S. Dinsmoor, Jr., treasurer, and a board of trustees; and the Fire Fencibles, Joel Parker, captain, succeeded by Col. James Wilson, with Jesse Corbett, John Hatch and Wm. Dinsmoor, lieutenants,

[1] Two Fox boys came from Fitchburg, the father writing Mr. A. that he sent him "two young foxes to tame."

and S. Dinsmoor, Jr., treasurer. Gen. Justus Perry was promoted to major general commanding the Third division of the state militia, and he appointed Richard Montague and Sumner Wheeler aids, with the rank of major. Benjamin F. Adams was colonel of the Twentieth regiment, and William Dinsmoor captain of the Keene Light Infantry.

The Cheshire Agricultural Society exhibited in Keene on the 7th of October. Salma Hale was vice president; Thomas M. Edwards, chairman of committee of awards; John Elliot, Elijah Parker, Thomas F Ames, James Wilson, Jr., and Abijah Wilder, Jr., committee of arrangements; and Col. B. F Adams, chief marshal, assisted by Major Sumner Wheeler and Capt. William Dinsmoor. The society dined at Harrington's hotel.

Among the deaths this year were those of Noah Cooke, aged eighty; Daniel Ingersoll, aged seventy-nine; and Dr. Josiah Goodhue, father of Mrs. Levi Chamberlain, aged seventy-one.

At the annual meeting in 1830 the town voted to give Samuel Dinsmoor and others leave "to erect tombs in the village graveyard." The tombs were built in 1833.

A meeting in April chose Zebadiah Kise, John Elliot and Azel Wilder a committee to consider the question of a town-farm for the support of the poor. The committee reported in favor, and a farm three miles west of the village known as the "Dea. Kingsbury farm" was purchased. The same meeting instructed the selectmen to build and make alterations for the "Concord road"—leading from the Sullivan road at the James Wright farm down into the valley of the North branch and up to Roxbury line.[1]

The subject of a railroad from Boston to Brattleboro had been agitated for some time. Surveys were made and the whole cost was estimated at $1,000,000. Large meetings favorable to the project were held in Boston and along the line. It was thought that a "branch might lead through Keene and Walpole," and it became the absorbing question of the time for the people of Keene and vicinity.

[1] The "Concord road," following the route described, from Keene through East Sullivan and Munsonville to South Stoddard and beyond, was another of those roads required by the public but opposed by the respective towns because they ran along their borders and would be of small advantage to the people of those towns. This road was petitioned for in 1820, but was fought so vigorously by the towns, including Keene, that it was not built until 1833.

The following is quoted from the Sentinel: "A pumpkin vine which grew in a garden in this village produced, this year, twenty-eight pumpkins, besides several small ones pulled off when green. The twenty-eight weighed five hundred and forty pounds."

According to the census of 1830, Keene had a population of 2,374[1]—1,239 in the village—whole increase in ten years, 477

The notable deaths that year were: Capt. Stephen Chase, aged sixty-seven; Mr. Samuel Heaton, aged seventy; Dr. Daniel Adams, aged sixty-four; Mr. John Newcomb, formerly of Norton, Mass., aged eighty-two; Mrs. Elizabeth, wife of Hon. James Wilson, senior, aged forty-nine.

The ten highest taxpayers were James Wilson, Samuel Dinsmoor, Benj. F Adams, Adams, Holman & Wood, Stephen Harrington, John Elliot, John Prentiss, Aaron Appleton, Azel Wilder and Perry & Wheeler. (Mrs. Sarah F. Wheelock paid one cent less than the latter firm.)

Gen. Samuel Dinsmoor, Democrat, was elected governor in 1831. On his return from Concord on the 4th of July, at the close of the session of the legislature, he was met at Marlboro by the Keene Light Infantry, Capt. James Wilson,[2] Jr.; the Ashuelot Cavalry, Capt. Chase; and a large cavalcade of citizens, all under Gen. Justus Perry as marshal, and escorted to Keene. The procession came in at the lower end of Main street, and as it passed Miss Fiske's school the governor was gracefully received by the teachers and young ladies paraded in two lines in front of the building. Arriving at his home[3] on Main street, by invitation of the governor, the escort partook of a collation. The tables had been prepared in his yard north of the house,[4] and toasts were drunk and speeches made.

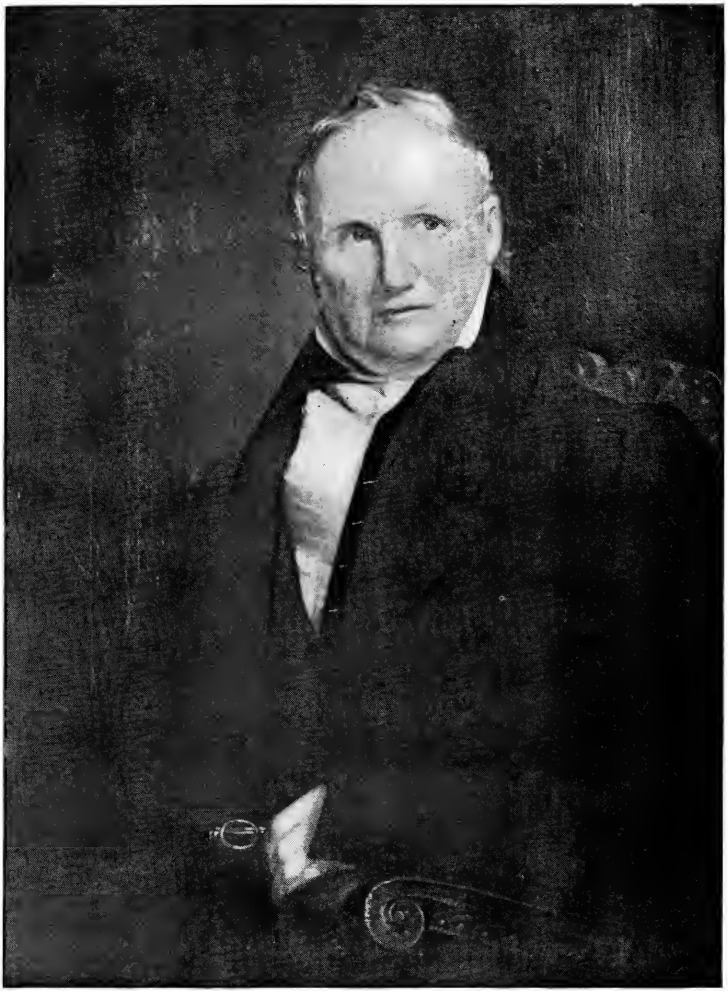
In October, 1831, there was a muster of the independent companies of the Sixth, Twelfth and Twentieth regiments on Nine Lot Plain, now the Keene driving park. There were two companies of cavalry, the Ashuelot Cavalry

[1] Westmoreland had 1,647; Swanzey, 1,816; Walpole, 1,979; Chesterfield, 2,046; Winchester, 2,052. Cheshire county had 27,016, gain, 173; New Hampshire, 269,533; gain, 25,372; the United States, 12,793,649, gain, 3,155,450.

[2] His second term as captain.

[3] Now known as the Laton Martin house, No. 95.

[4] Where the brick house now stands.



SAMUEL DINSMOOR, SR.

of Keene, and one from the Twelfth regiment; three of artillery; two of grenadiers; four of light infantry; and four of riflemen. The Keene Light Infantry was commanded by Capt. James Wilson, Jr. They were reviewed by Gov. Dinsmoor; and Col. Franklin Pierce, a member of his staff, afterwards president of the United States, delivered an address. The day was fine and the military display was exceedingly brilliant.

Among the deaths that year were those of Capt. Asa Ware, aged eighty; Oliver Whitcomb, aged eighty-two; and Abijah Houghton, a Revolutionary pensioner, aged eighty-four.

The centennial anniversary of the birth of Washington was celebrated in Keene with elaborate demonstrations in 1832. A meeting of the citizens at the town hall in January chose a general committee of two from each town in the county, among them Hon. Salma Hale and Henry Coolidge, of Keene, Larkin G. Mead, of Chesterfield, Levi Chamberlain, of Fitzwilliam, Gen. Samuel Griffin, of Roxbury, Henry Melville, of Nelson, and A. H. Bennett, of Winchester. Gen. Justus Perry, Zebadiah Kise, Timothy Hall, Josiah Colony, John Wood, James Wilson, Jr., John H. Fuller, Abijah Wilder, Jr., and Thomas Thompson were the local executive committee. The principal ceremonies were at the meetinghouse, where Hon. James Wilson, senior, presided, with Hon. Nahum Parker, of Fitzwilliam, Hon. Phineas Handerson, of Chesterfield, and Hon. John Wood, of Keene, vice presidents. Hon. Salma Hale delivered an oration, and Rev. Z. S. Barstow served as chaplain. The music rendered by the choir under Mr. Eliphalet Briggs was described as "truly excellent." About eighty gentlemen sat down to dinner at Hatch's tavern, at the close of which thirteen regular toasts were drunk, with eloquent speeches in response. His excellency, Gov. Dinsmoor, was an invited guest. In the evening a ball was given at Hatch's, and the village was illuminated.

Some of the parents complained that their children received too much religious instruction in the schools, some of it, as they alleged, of a sectarian character; that the teachers and others distributed religious tracts among the

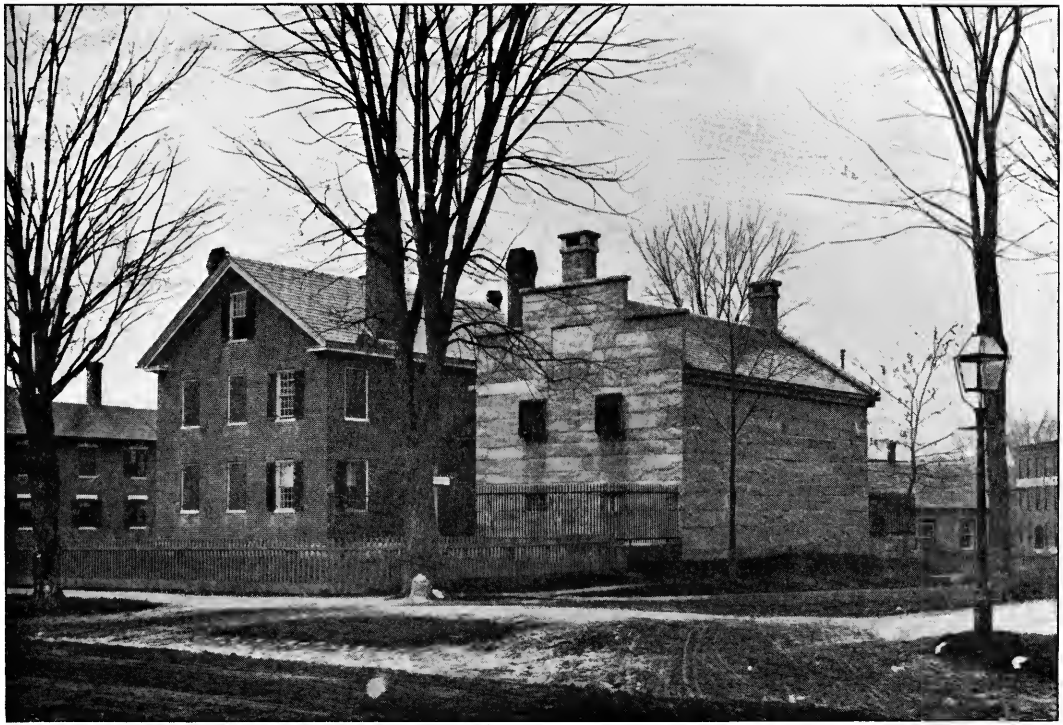
pupils and spent too much time in devotions and exhortations during school hours; and at the annual meeting this year the town voted its disapproval of those practices and directed that the teachers confine themselves to reading the Scriptures as prescribed by the committee, with one short prayer each day and instruction in those "moral virtues which are the ornaments of human society." The vote was recorded in full. The number of scholars in the public schools of Keene at this time was 768.

Gov. Dinsmoor was reëlected in 1832, receiving 138 votes in Keene, the total cast being 292; while at the national election in November following, 344 Whig votes were cast, to 131 Democratic. He was also reëlected the year following, without opposition.

In September the venerable Noah Webster, LL. D., spent a Sunday in Keene, and on Monday evening he gave an entertaining lecture at the town hall, telling his experience and giving an account of the opposition he encountered in his efforts to fix a uniform standard of pronunciation. The large octavo edition of his dictionary was then fast coming into use, and twelve million copies of his American Spelling Book had already been sold.

The Ashuelot bank was organized in 1833, with Samuel Dinsmoor, Phineas Handerson, John H. Fuller, Samuel Wood, Jr., Geo. S. Root, William Buffum, and Thomas M. Edwards, directors; Samuel Dinsmoor, president, and Samuel Dinsmoor, Jr., cashier. Its brick banking house was soon afterwards built on the west side of the Square, and there the bank still remains. Upon the death of his father, in 1835, S. Dinsmoor, Jr., was chosen president and Henry Seymour, from Brattleboro, cashier.

The Cheshire Provident Institution for Savings was also organized this year under an act of the legislature passed at the preceding session. The first meeting of the corporators was held on the 13th of August, at the Phœnix Hotel. Dr. Amos Twitchell was chosen president, Gen. Justus Perry and Abijah Wilder, Jr., vice presidents, and George Tilden, secretary and treasurer. Deposits were received, beginning Sept. 10, "every Tuesday from 2 until 5 p. m." The incorporators were leading men of Keene



Old Jail—1833-1884.

and other towns in the county. The bank was in George Tilden's bookstore in the basement of the building south of A. & T. Hall's store, where the Cheshire bank now stands.

The old wooden jail, on the south corner of Mechanic and Washington streets had become unfit for use, three prisoners having escaped from it in 1830, and a new one was built in 1833, 24x36 feet, two stories high, all of Roxbury granite and iron except the rafters and planks for the slate roof—"one of the strongest and most thoroughly built prisons in the Union." "A handsome brick house" was built in connection with it for the use of the jailor, now the residence of Mr. Ferdinand Petts. The stone residence opposite, on the site of Oliver Heaton's blacksmith shop, was built the same year, of Marlboro granite, by Aaron Parker of Marlboro; and the brick house next south of it, by Abel Wilder.

The screw gimlet, which still stands at the head of all manufactures of the kind, had been invented just previous to this time by Gideon Newcomb of Roxbury, N. H., and had been made by him at his house, and by Everett Newcomb and George Page, at Page's mill, on the North branch in Keene. These gimlets were now manufactured by Everett Newcomb and Azel Wilder at the shop of the latter near Faulkner & Colony's mills. That firm made improvements on the first invention and also made bits and augers of the same kind. Later, the business went to Chesterfield and to other places, and large fortunes have been made in the manufacture and sale of those tools.

While the legislature was in session in June, President Jackson, accompanied by Vice President Van Buren and Secretaries Marcy, Woodbury and Cass,[1] visited the state. Eight companies of militia were ordered to Concord for escort duty, among them the Keene Light Infantry, Col. James Wilson, then its captain, commanding. The company left Keene Monday[2] morning, June 24, 1833, with full ranks—128 muskets, four officers and twelve musicians—

[1] Wm. L. Marcy was secretary of state, Levi Woodbury of New Hampshire, secretary of the treasury, and Lewis Cass, a native of New Hampshire, secretary of war.

[2] As the time of the president's arrival was uncertain, it had been arranged that the members should be notified by the sound of their one piece of artillery. That was fired on Sunday evening.

all in full, new uniforms of blue, faced with red, with helmets and black plumes. The rear guard was composed of eight ex-captains averaging upwards of six feet in height. Teams were provided for all.[1] The route was through Dublin, Hancock, Hillsboro Bridge, Henniker and Hopkinton. Upon approaching a village the company would leave the carriages, form and march through, the teams bringing up the rear. They encamped the first night at Hancock. The next day it rained and they remained in camp. Wednesday evening they reached Concord and encamped in the fields west of the town, now covered with residences, near the site of the present insane asylum.

The president reached Concord on Friday, at 3 p. m. At the town line he was met by the committee of the legislature with the eight companies of militia—the Keene company,[2] by far the finest of all, on the right—a large cavalcade of citizens, and civic processions, and escorted to the Eagle Coffee House, where he was received by Gov. Dinsmoor, and the officers of the state and the members of the legislature were introduced. On Saturday the president reviewed the troops and spoke in the highest terms of their appearance, saying that the Keene Light Infantry was the finest and best disciplined company of soldiers that he had ever seen; and Secretary Cass was equally pronounced in his encomiums. The same afternoon the company started on its return, encamped that night at Henniker, reached its armory at sunset on Sunday, fired its evening gun and dispersed.

Among the notable deaths in 1833 were those of Thomas Wells, one of the early settlers, who aided Mr. Hale in his preparation of the Annals of Keene, aged eighty-seven; Aaron Davis, senior, a Revolutionary pensioner, aged seventy-seven; Isaac Billings, aged fifty-three; John Clark, aged fifty-five; and James, a young son of Capt. Nathan Bassett, drowned in the Ashuelot river.

In January, 1834, the Cheshire County Mutual Fire

[1] In most cases, six men in each, with a driver. A six-horse team carried the tents and camp equipage, including four barrels of liquor—one of each of four kinds. These particulars were furnished by Samuel P. Ellis, a member who was with the company on this expedition.

[2] * * * "probably the best disciplined, most effective, largest and most attractive military company ever seen in New Hampshire." (McClintock's History of New Hampshire, page 565.)

Insurance Co. was organized, with Thomas Bellows, president, succeeded by Phineas Handerson, John H. Elliot, Silas Hardy and others at different times. It did a successful business for more than sixty years.

At the annual town meeting, the selectmen were instructed, acting in concert with the town agent, Thomas M. Edwards, and a committee of twenty chosen by the town, to enforce the laws in regard to licensed houses, several parties in town having been in the habit of selling intoxicating liquors without license.

In August, John Sears, a Keene boy who had been attracted to the business by the exhibition here in 1823, brought a fine menagerie to town and exhibited on the ground in rear of Mr. Lamson's store, on Roxbury street, which was then an open lot.

The first "Franklin fire-frames," invented by Benjamin Franklin, designed to bring the fire on the hearth further to the front and thus, with its own warmth, throw more of the heat into the room, were brought to town and sold by Adams & Holman.

Among those who died, 1834, were Abiathar Pond, aged eighty-nine; Jonathan Stearns, sixty-three; Mrs. Mary Boyd Reed, wife of Gov. Dinsmoor, sixty-four; Cornelius Howlett, seventy-two; John V Wood, thirty-eight; Samuel Bassett, a Revolutionary pensioner, fifer of the company that marched from here April 21, 1775, aged eighty; Mrs. Miriam, widow of Charles Rice of the same company. aged ninety; Dea. Thomas Fisher, seventy-six; Mrs. Tamar, wife of Dea. Abijah Wilder, eighty-five; and Major John P Blake, a Revolutionary pensioner, seventy-seven.

The 15th of January, 1835, was a remarkably cold day, the mercury here reaching thirty-four degrees below zero; at Dublin, twelve below. On the 16th it was nine degrees below here, while at Dublin it was twenty-three degrees above zero—showing the difference in temperature on the hills and in the valleys on still, cold mornings.

In January, Salma Hale and Elijah Parker formed a law partnership, Mr. Parker remaining in his office over A. & T. Hall, and Mr. Hale in his, over Lamson's store.

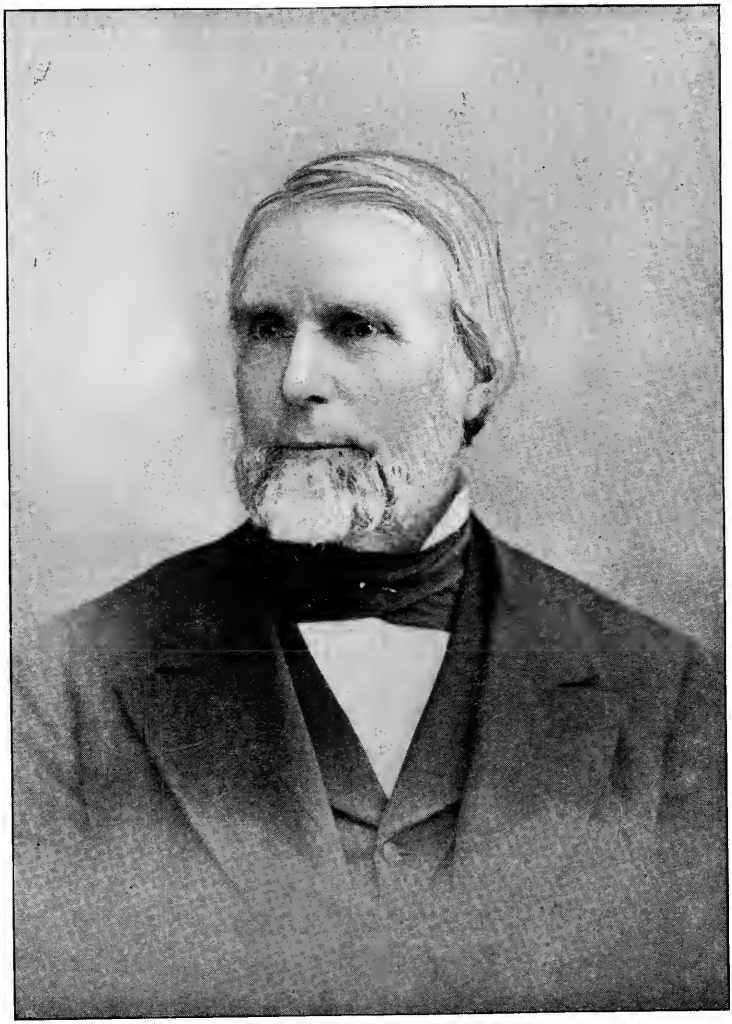
The Keene Railroad Co. was chartered in July, 1835,

and Aaron Appleton and Salma Hale were authorized to call the first meeting, at the Phœnix Hotel. The project was to run from Lowell and Nashua through Keene, Brattleboro and Bennington, to Troy, N. Y. A committee consisting of Salma Hale, Thomas M. Edwards and Justus Perry of Keene, and three from Brattleboro was appointed to push the enterprise. Col. Loammi Baldwin, engineer of the Middlesex canal, was appointed engineer, and various routes were examined, one through Marlboro, Dublin and Peterboro. Books were opened and more than a thousand shares were promptly taken. Salma Hale, Samuel Dinsmoor, Justus Perry, Phineas Handerson and John H. Fuller, were chosen commissioners of the road, and Justus Perry, Salma Hale, Thomas M. Edwards, John H. Fuller, John Elliot, Azel Wilder and Thomas Thompson, directors. But all the routes were found to be impracticable or too expensive, and the scheme was abandoned.

In July the canal, locks, water privilege and mills at Bellows Falls were purchased by a Boston company for manufacturing purposes—the navigation of the upper Connecticut having been abandoned.

This year, 1835, the Twentieth regiment mustered in Keene and was reviewed by Gen. James Wilson, who had been promoted to the command of the Fifth brigade. His brother Robert, who had succeeded to the command of the Keene Light Infantry, was appointed lieutenant colonel and inspector on his staff, and Capt. Sumner Carpenter commanded the Keene Light Infantry.

George Tilden had carried on his bookbinding business in the basement of the building south of A. & T. Hall until this year, when Samuel A. Gerould built in the space between his store and Mr. Prentiss' block, and Mr. Tilden took that store and the rooms over it—taking with him the Cheshire Provident Institution—and they are still occupied (1902) by his son, (Geo. H. Tilden & Co.) The same year the Wilders made an addition to their block, on the west—now occupied by the Citizens bank—and Edward Poole took it for his jewelry store. He was the first to advertise and sell "Loco Foco (friction) matches for families."



Abiel A. Livermore.

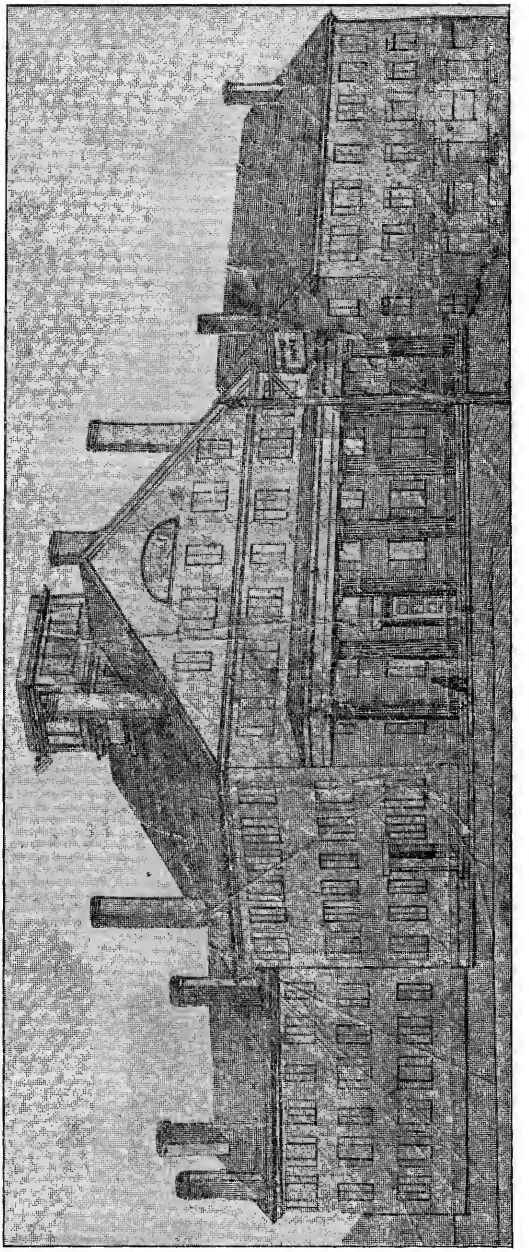
The notable deaths in 1835 were those of Dea. Abijah Wilder, a resident of Keene for about sixty-six years, aged eighty-three; Dea. Elijah Carter, aged sixty-eight; Hon. Samuel Dinsmoor, aged sixty-nine; Capt. Isaac Wyman, a Revolutionary soldier, son of Col. Isaac Wyman, aged seventy-nine; Eli Metcalf, aged eighty-five; and James Banks, aged eighty-three.

On the 6th of April, 1836, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, a fire broke out in the attic of the Phœnix Hotel and that building was burned to the ground. Only the brick walls were left standing. It was kept by E. W. Boyden, who was well insured, and much of his furniture was saved. It was said at the time that the building was lost in consequence of the lack of a proper supply of hose by the town. All through the summer the blackened, unsightly ruins lay undisturbed, but about the 1st of September, John Wood and William Lamson called a meeting of those in favor of rebuilding, a fund was raised, a company organized, preparations made during the winter, and the present Cheshire House was built the following summer. It was afterwards extended twenty feet farther south, filling the space to the next building, and giving a front of seventy-five feet on Main street.

In August, the stables and outbuildings in rear of the Eagle Hotel, with those of Sumner Wheeler, next south of them, were all burned. The women aided as usual in forming lines for passing buckets, and the main buildings were saved.

In November, 1836, Rev. T. R. Sullivan having resigned, after a pastorate of nine years, Rev. Abiel A. Livermore was ordained over the Keene Congregational Society

Among the deaths in 1836 were those of Joseph Brown, for a long term of years one of the most active business men in town, aged seventy-two, and on the same evening his wife Keziah (Day) aged seventy-two; Nathan Wheeler, who came from Troy, N. H., a Revolutionary pensioner, aged seventy-nine; Mrs. Eliza, widow of Noah Cooke, aged seventy-four; Timothy Colony, aged seventy-two; Everett Newcomb, aged fifty; Mrs. Elizabeth Page, aged ninety-two; and Mrs. Dorothy, widow of Thomas Wells, aged eighty-seven.



CHESHIRE HOUSE — FROM AN OLD PEN DRAWING.

On the evening of the 25th of January, 1837, occurred one of the most marvelous displays of the aurora borealis ever recorded. Scarlet, crimson and all shades of color, in brilliant rays and fantastic shapes, constantly changing, spread over the whole heavens from Nova Scotia to Kentucky and from Montreal to the Bermudas. "The beauty and sublimity of the whole were beyond description."

In the spring of 1837, the "Academy in Keene" was opened to the public by a prudential committee of the First Congregational Society, consisting of Eliphalet Briggs, Wm. Lamson and S. A. Gerould, under the direction of Breed Batcheller,[1] a graduate of Dartmouth college, who had been successful as preceptor of an academy at Boscawen, N. H. A brick building of suitable size, two stories high, with a basement,[2] had been erected during the preceding summer on land of A. & A. Wilder[3]—110 square rods, which they gave for that purpose—with funds raised by subscription, chiefly through the efforts of Rev. Z. S. Barstow and Mr. William Lamson. It stood on the lot now occupied by the High School building, which was deeded to fifteen trustees—Joel Parker, Amos Twitchell, Z. S. Barstow, A. A. Livermore, James Wilson, Aaron Hall, Azel Wilder, William Lamson, Elijah Parker, and Eliphalet Briggs, all of Keene, and John Sabin, of Fitzwilliam, Elisha Rockwood, of Swanzey, Alanson Rawson, of Roxbury, Larkin Baker, of Westmoreland, and Pliny Jewell, of Winchester—five of them ministers[4]—the board to be self-perpetuating.

Mr. Batcheller was popular and successful, remained two years, had about 200 pupils, and employed Miss Sarah M. Leverett and Miss Mary M. Parker as assistants. The name was changed to "Keene Academy," and instruction

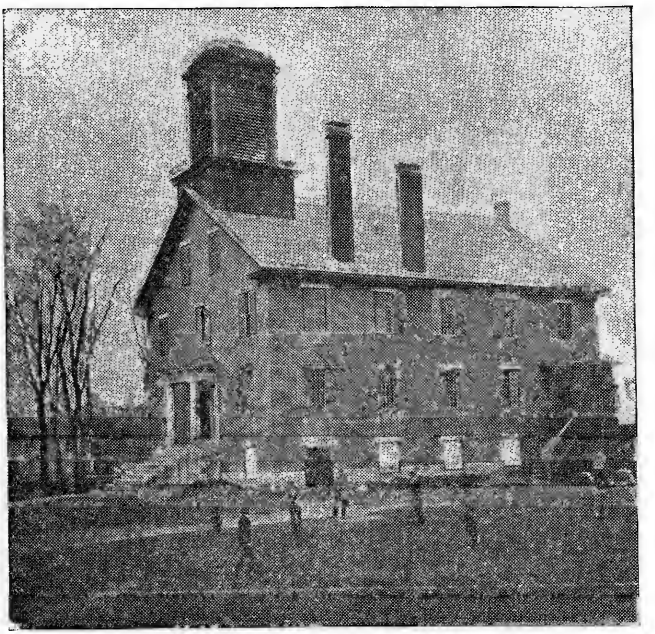
[1] Grandson of the noted loyalist of that name of Packersfield.

[2] The basement was used for a chapel by the First church, the attic for singing schools, and later for the Natural History Society's room.

[3] The deed was made by Abijah Wilder, through an exchange of properties, but it was understood that both brothers were parties to the gift.

[4] It was essentially a Congregational institution. The deed of the land was given "in consideration of the promises and of the sum of one dollar," and one of the promises was that "the said trustees shall not elect or employ any person as Principal of said Academy who is not a professor of religion in an Orthodox Congregational or Presbyterian church, and who does not hold in substance the faith now held and maintained by the First Congregational Society in Keene." And the subscriptions came chiefly from members of the Congregational church.

was given in vocal music and on the piano and organ,[1] in addition to the branches usually taught in academies. In the spring of 1839, Mr. Batcheller married his assistant, Miss Leverett, and gave up his position. He was succeeded by Mr. Noah Bishop, and he by Abraham Jenkins; and from 1841 to 1844, Mr. A. E. P. Perkins was principal, succeeded by Mr. Seneca Cummings—all graduates of colleges. Mr. Cummings resigned in 1845 and was followed,



KEENE ACADEMY.

for one term, by his assistant, Miss L. K. Kimball, and afterwards by a Mr. Clark, for two years, and Blodgett and Woodworth, for one year each.

In 1850, Mr. William Torrance, of Enfield, Mass., a graduate of Amherst college, who had been an instructor at Ann Arbor, a man of lovely character and an excellent

[1] The apparatus was meagre, but was soon increased by subscriptions to the value of $160. Abijah Wilder built the brick house, corner Court and Summer streets, for a boarding house for the academy. Mr. Timothy Hall gave a bell for the building which is still in use on the high school house, and Mr. Eliphalet Briggs gave a set of globes which cost $100.

teacher became the principal. But the academy was not a success financially; it had no fund, and the trustees found difficulty in keeping it up to a proper standard.

In 1853, chiefly through the exertions of Mr. Torrance, the building was leased to the "Associated Districts"—composed of those covering the village—for the term of ten years, for a high school, of which Mr. Torrance became the first principal. The lease was afterwards renewed for a shorter term.[1]

Miss Catherine Fiske died in May, 1837, and the Young Ladies' Seminary was continued for several years by Miss E. P Withington, with assistants.

The railroad from Boston to Lowell having been opened for traffic, stages ran from Keene to connect with the trains at Lowell, one line leaving the Emerald House Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5 a. m., reaching Lowell, via Peterboro, at 3 p. m., and Boston by cars, at 4.30; another line leaving the same house on alternate days, at 8 a. m., reached Lowell at 6 p. m., and Boston the next morning, at 10.30. Returning, cars left Boston at 7 a. m. At Lowell a steamer took passengers to Nashua, where stages for Keene and beyond awaited them. But this arrangement lasted only a short time, as the railroad was completed to Nashua in September, 1838.

Two other lines still ran to Boston direct, and continued a year or two later; one from the Eagle Hotel, daily, except Sundays, through Troy, Fitzwilliam, Winchendon, Fitchburg, Lancaster and Waltham; the other from the new Cheshire House—through Fitzwilliam, Rindge, Ashby and Groton. Fare by each, $2.50.

The first great financial crisis of the century came upon the country in 1837 The suspension of specie payments by the banks in the large cities created alarm throughout the country. A meeting of the citizens of Keene was held in the town hall, Gen. Justus Perry, chairman, to consider the situation, and to aid in restoring confidence. A committee consisting of Joel Parker, James Wilson, Jr., Levi Chamberlain, William S. Brooks, John Towns,

[1] From the rent, the sale of the apparatus to the high school, and other sources, the trustees had on deposit, Jan. 1, 1860, a fund of $750, which, with the proceeds of the final sale of the property some years later, and interest, has increased to a large sum, now in the hands of fifteen trustees.

Samuel Wood, Jr., Abijah Wilder, Wm. Lamson and Caleb Carpenter presented resolutions which were adopted, stating that it was expedient for the two banks here to pursue the same course as the larger banks and suspend specie payments, and that "such a measure should in nowise impair the confidence which the community has heretofore placed in the management of the Banks in this town." The banks suspended, causing less financial disturbance than was anticipated. Merchants advertised that "New England Bank bills will be taken for goods, notes, or accounts if presented soon."

In the list of deaths in 1837 are found the names of Mrs. Artemisia, widow of Abijah Foster, aged seventy-one; Miss Hannah Lanman (sister of James Lanman), eighty; Dr. Thomas Edwards, eighty; John Hatch, formerly landlord of Phœnix Hotel, fifty-one; James Wilson, 2d, sixty-three; Miss Catherine Fiske, fifty-three, and Mrs. Azubah Morse, her mother, seventy-five; Phineas Pond, seventy; Daniel Watson, seventy-six; Eli Blake, sixty-nine; Rev. Silas Wilder, seventy-three; Solomon Woods, sixty-five.

Washington's birthday was celebrated in 1838, chiefly by the Whigs, with a view to carrying the state for their party and electing Gen. Wilson governor. A large convention was held in the meetinghouse, opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Barstow, and presided over by Hon. Salma Hale, with several vice presidents, some from surrounding towns. Music was furnished by the choir, Hon. Phineas Handerson delivered an oration, and short speeches were made by others. At the annual meeting, the town cast 400 votes for Gen. Wilson for governor, to 152 for Isaac Hill. Hill was elected. The selectmen this year appointed Rev. Z. S. Barstow, Rev. A. A. Livermore and John Henry Elliot superintending school committee, and the same were continued the following year.

The wonderful Siamese twins visited Keene for one day, May 21, and exhibited at the Eagle Hotel.

A local census of Keene was taken in 1838 by Daniel Watson, who reported:

Males under 14	409
Males over 14	802

FAULKNER & COLONY WOOLEN MILLS. BUILT IN 1838-9.

Females under 14	435
Females over 14	927
Total	2,573
Total in 1830	2,374
Increase in 8 years	199
Acres of wheat in cultivation	106
Acres of rye in cultivation	368
Acres of corn in cultivation	375
Acres of other grain in cultivation	427
Acres of root crops in cultivation	341
Total (besides grass)	1,617
Maple sugar made in 1838	19,550 lbs.

In August, 1838, Faulkner & Colony's brick factory, built in 1825, with dye-house and other buildings connected, was destroyed by fire. The main building was 73x36 feet, two stories high, and contained the gristmill, with three sets of stones, corn-cracker and smut-mill. The sawmill occupied the west end and the clothing works the east, with a low building running sixty to eighty feet to the south. "The valuable brick house on the east was saved." Loss $12,500—insured for $7,500. The firm immediately rebuilt on a larger scale—a brick mill for making flannels, heated by steam, and separately, to the west of it, their saw and grist mills. In 1859, the brick factory was enlarged, and again in 1900.

The Twentieth regiment, now commanded by Col. Robert Wilson, was inspected, in October, by Col. Edmund Burke of Newport, brigade inspector. The Westmoreland Light Infantry, Capt. Levi Barker, 100 men, and the Keene Light Infantry, Capt. Walter Taylor, Jr., seventy-six men, both in attractive uniforms, completely equipped for service, were pronounced the finest companies in the brigade.

The Keene Thief Detecting Society, in its day an important institution, was organized in 1838. At its next annual meeting John H. Fuller was elected president; Geo. W. Sturtevant, secretary; Abel Blake, treasurer; Thomas M. Edwards, attorney; and Gen. Wilson, Josiah Colony, Oliver Wilson, Wm. Dinsmoor, Oliver Holman, Robert

Shelly, John B. Dousman and B. F. Adams standing committee; and the "pursuers" were the leading men in town.

The notable deaths in 1838 were those of Jonathan Rand, aged seventy-seven; Daniel Bradford, sixty-seven; Thomas Dwinnell, eighty-five; Dea. Henry Ellis, a Revolutionary soldier, ninety-two; Capt. Joshua Ellis, fifty-three; Solomon Woodward, seventy; and Mrs. Mary (Ralston), wife of Elijah Dunbar, seventy.

The subject of having a hospital for the insane in the state had been agitated for several years, and Governor Dinsmoor had been the first executive to recommend to the legislature its establishment as a state institution. A large meeting had been held in Keene in March, 1836, the call for which was signed by the leading men of the county, at which it was "Resolved that it is expedient and desirable to establish an Insane Hospital in this state." Similar meetings were held in Portsmouth and other large towns. The question was submitted to the people, and on the 7th of November of that year, the town, after an eloquent address by Gen. Wilson, voted unanimously in favor of state appropriations for that purpose.

One of the political questions of that time was that of the disposition to be made of the surplus revenue that had accumulated in the national treasury. It was finally divided among the states; but even then there were different opinions as to what the respective states could do with it, and for what purpose it could properly be used. In February, 1837, Keene had voted to accept its proportion of the $892,115.17, which had been paid over to New Hampshire, amounting to $2,607.20, and chose Phineas Handerson commissioner to receive the money and loan it out on good security in sums of $100 to $500—preferably to individuals in town. On the 30th of March, this year, the town "Voted to give the interest which may accrue from the Public money deposited with this town for the term of ten years to the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane on condition said Asylum is Located in this town." The asylum was established by the legislature and Dr. Amos Twitchell was made its first president and one of the locating committee, but the place selected for it was

the capital of the state. The next year the town voted to use the interest of the surplus revenue fund for paying poll taxes and ordinary town expenses, and afterwards it went into the town treasury, to be used for town expenses.

By act of the legislature approved July 2, 1841, towns were permitted to dispose of the surplus fund as they saw fit. Acting under this authority, the annual town meeting of 1842 voted to distribute the surplus held by the town of Keene among the taxpayers and those exempt from taxes by reason of being seventy years of age (provided they were American citizens). The taxes were first to be deducted and the surplus was to be paid in money.

At the annual meeting, upon the question of the erection of a fireproof building by the county for keeping its records, the town voted unanimously in favor, and such a building was ordered by the county convention at the session of the legislature in June; and it was built this year, of granite, 28x32 feet, on the site of the present courthouse. Henry Coolidge, of Keene, and Jonathan K. Smith, of Dublin, were the sub-committee to superintend the work. The Baptist society from West Keene built a brick church on Winter street this year, (now a part of the armory). Rev. John Peacock was the pastor, succeeded by Rev. Mark Carpenter, and he by Rev. Gilbert Robbins, who remained eleven years.

At this period the Ashuelot Manufacturing Co., consisting of Wm. Lamson, John H. Fuller, B. F. Adams, Phineas Fiske, John Wood, Thomas M. Edwards, Wm. Dinsmoor, Oliver Holman and some others, was in active operation. In 1835-6, the Winchester factory and other water-power properties in the village of West Winchester were purchased by those gentlemen and for several years they carried on the business of manufacturing fine cassimeres, under the general management of Benj. F. Adams. In 1853, they sold the factory and mill property to Joshua Ward, of Winchester.

The Twentieth regiment, Col. Levi Barker, of Westmoreland, mustered in Keene in 1839, and was reviewed by Gen. Wilson. The two light infantry companies were rivals as usual. The Westmoreland company had ten or

twelve more in number than the Keene company, but each had upwards of 100 men. A few days previous to the muster, the Keene company, Capt. Geo. G. Dort, had been presented by the citizens with "an elegant standard."

Among the deaths in 1839 were those of Hon. James Wilson, Sen., aged seventy-three; Quincy Wheeler, of the firm of S. & Q. Wheeler, thirty; John Emerson, a Revolutionary pensioner, seventy-five; Capt. Abel Blake, eighty; Mr. Luther Smith, the clockmaker, seventy-three.

The period of fifteen years ending with 1840 had brought great improvement to the village of Keene, and a marked increase in the wealth and population of the town. Central Square had been enlarged to its present dimensions, three-storied brick buildings had arisen on its north, east, and west sides, and most of the old plank sidewalks had been replaced with brick. The Cheshire House, the Unitarian church, the academy, and the Baptist church on Winter street, now a part of the armory, all brick buildings, had been erected near the Square; the Emerald House and Gen. Wilson's residence on Main street, and many tasteful dwellings on that and other streets. The Eagle Hotel had been greatly improved and enlarged by the addition of another story, and the annexation of the store on the south by building up the space between. The roads had been improved, and the stone bridges at the lower end of Main street and on the Walpole and Surry road had replaced wooden ones. At the close of this period both glass factories were still in operation, and there was a third one for a short time on Gilsum street. There was active manufacturing at South Keene, where Aaron Davis had established an iron foundry, and added the manufacture of firearms to his other works, in which Thomas M. Edwards, and later William Lamson, Jr., were interested. Faulkner & Colony were making fine flannels, and the mills in the various parts of the town were turning out large quantities of lumber and grinding thousands of bushels of home-raised grain. Alvah Walker had taken the Cheshire House and brought it up to the standard of his noted predecessor in the Phœnix, John Hatch; Asaph Harrington had succeeded his father, Col. Stephen, in the Eagle Hotel,

and like him, made it one of the most attractive inns in the country; and the Emerald House, under Edward Whitney, the Sun tavern, under Abijah Metcalf, and Sawyer's in the west part, were all excellent public houses. But with the advance of railroads the country taverns along the great thoroughfares gradually disappeared. The stores of A. & T. Hall; Adams, Holman & Dutton, with John Bixby's drug store in the corner room; William Lamson & Co.; Sumner Wheeler; J. & R. Shelly; Dinsmoor & White; S. A. Gerould; Keyes & Colony; Wales Kimball; B. G. Samson; Nathaniel Evans; the two Haskells; and James H. Freeman, in the store north of the Emerald House, besides many smaller shops for manufacture and sales, were carrying on a large amount of business. And yet, with all its thrift, which, continued to the present time, has made it one of the richest towns in the country in proportion to its number of inhabitants, it was a quiet country village, with an air of restfulness, content and refinement that was exceedingly attractive. A traveller, in a letter published in the Claremont Eagle, about this time, said: "Keene is one of the most delightful villages in New England. * * * * There is hardly another place in the Union (of its size, of course) that possesses more talent and sterling intellect than Keene." Francis Parkman, in his "Half Century of Conflict," vol. 1, page 230, says of Keene about this period: "A town noted in rural New England for its kindly hospitality, culture without pretence, and good breeding without conventionality." Rev. A. A. Livermore, years afterwards, "looked back upon it with fondness and called it 'The Happy Valley.'"

The census of 1840 gave the population of Keene:

Males	1,236
Females	1,366
Colored, males 3, females 5	8
Total	2,610
Number in 1830	2,374
Increase in 10 years	236[1]
In 20 years	713

[1] Winchester had 2,065, a gain of 13; Walpole had 2,015, a gain of 96; Chesterfield had 1,767, a loss of 279; Swanzey had 1,751, a loss of 65; Westmoreland had 1,546, a loss of 101.

Engaged in agriculture.....428
Engaged in manufactures and trade.....267
Engaged in learned professions..... 28
Total population of the United States...17,069,453

The twelve highest taxpayers in 1840 were John Elliot, Phineas Fiske, James Wilson, admr., Azel Wilder, William Lamson & Co., A. &. T. Hall, Sumner Wheeler, Betsey Smith, Charles Lamson, James Wilson, Aaron Appleton and Justus Perry.

Benaiah Cooke had been appointed postmaster in 1837 to succeed William Dinsmoor. He still kept the office in Wilders' building; and edited and published, in the rooms above, the Farmer's Museum, afterwards named the Cheshire Republican and Farmer's Museum, now the Cheshire Republican.

Doctors C. and F S. Stratton, dentists, had rooms at the Cheshire House and soon afterwards took those over the Ashuelot bank, where F. S. Stratton, a very skillful dentist, remained for more than forty years.

Whitcomb French removed to Peterboro in 1834, and was succeeded by his brother, Stillman French, who kept an excellent stable for more than thirty years.

This was the year, 1840, of the great political campaign—the "hard cider" and "log cabin" campaign of the Whigs—which resulted in the election of William Henry Harrison, president. Gen. Wilson had been a delegate to the nominating convention at Harrisburg and there began that remarkable tour which gave him a national reputation as an orator. Daniel Webster was invited to make a speech here while on his campaigning tour. A committee consisting of Hon. Salma Hale and Dr. Amos Twitchell met him at Bellows Falls, and the next morning, July 9, escorted him to Keene, where he arrived at 12 o'clock and was received by Gen. Wilson on the steps of his residence with a brief speech of welcome. At 2.30 p. m., Mr. Webster, with Gen. Wilson and the committee, was escorted to the academy yard by the Keene and Marlboro Light Infantry companies, Capts. Dort and Converse, with military bands, followed by a large concourse of people. A platform had been raised sufficient to accommodate the speakers, the committee, the veteran soldiers and about

600 ladies. The audience was estimated to number upwards of 4,000. After a ringing speech of introduction by Gen. Wilson, Mr. Webster spoke for about two hours. While he was speaking a support gave way and the platform settled a few inches, producing some consternation among its occupants. Mr. Webster promptly stepped forward and said, "If the Whig platform goes down, I go with it," and went on with his speech.

After the meeting, Mr. Webster received a large number of people from out of town, in the drawing rooms of the Cheshire House; and in the evening Gen. Wilson gave him a public reception at his residence.

The printing office in Prentiss's block was the headquarters of the Whigs, and was a lively and fascinating place, where the wits of Keene—Dr. Amos Twitchell, Salma Hale, Gen. Wilson, Phineas Handerson, Levi Chamberlain, B. F. Adams, Henry Dorr, Elijah Parker, Aaron and Timothy Hall, T. M. Edwards and others—met and cracked their jokes and had friendly discussions.

Among those who died in 1840 were Elias Rugg, aged sixty-six; Samuel H. Kemp, of the United States army in Florida; Mrs. Ruth (Davis) Batcheller, widow of Major Breed Batcheller, formerly of Packersfield, ninety-five; Mrs. Phœbe, wife of Abijah Wilson, seventy-three; and Joshua Graves, seventy.

The winter of 1840–1, was one of great severity, "perhaps the coldest ever known in New England" down to that time.

CHAPTER XVII.

RAILROAD AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

1841—1860.

On the 4th of March, 1841, the Whigs of Keene fired a salute of one hundred and fifty guns in honor of the inauguration of William Henry Harrison as president of the United States. The Sentinel of April 7, shaded with heavy black lines, announced his death.

A meeting of the citizens of Keene nominated Charles L. Putnam, a young lawyer who had recently come to town, for postmaster under the new administration. He was appointed, and the office was removed to the first door south of the Cheshire House.

For a long term of years, down to about 1850, Election Day—the first Wednesday in June, the day of the meeting of the legislature—was a very enjoyable holiday. This year it was celebrated by a gathering of 1,000 to 1,200 persons, pupils of the district schools and others, on the banks of the Ashuelot river, where they indulged in a feast of "'lection cake," listened to speeches and music, and spent the day in social enjoyment.

On the same afternoon, Gen. James Wilson, who had been appointed surveyor general of Wisconsin and Iowa territories, was given a complimentary dinner at the Cheshire House, previous to his departure for the West. Hon. Thomas M. Edwards presided, Gen. Wilson made an elegant speech, toasts were drunk, and other short speeches were made.

The valley road up the Ashuelot river from Gilsum to Marlow was opened this year, 1841, connecting with the Beaver brook road, built in 1837, from Keene to Gilsum, and giving an easy and pleasant route to Newport, thirty-three miles.

At this time there was a revival of sentiment in favor of temperance. The Washington Total Abstinence Society

had been organized in 1841, Hon. Salma Hale president, with 600 members; and a temperance jubilee was held on the 22d of February, 1842. On the 4th of July a temperance celebration was held in John Elliot's grove, on the banks of the Ashuelot, west of his house. All the temperance societies, the Sunday schools and other organizations and the people generally, joined. A procession was formed in the Square, headed by the military band, and marched to the grove, where seats had been provided, tables spread and a bounteous repast prepared. Mr. Hale presided and there were speeches, toasts and responses, and music by the united choirs. It was estimated that at least 2,000 people were present. The day began with the roar of cannon and the ringing of bells, and closed with bonfires and fireworks.

In the early part of 1842, Thomas W. Dorr, who claimed to have been elected governor of Rhode Island, and attempted to hold that office by military force, was compelled to flee from that state. He came to New Hampshire, made his home for some months in Westmoreland and spent considerable time in Keene. He was indicted for high treason by the supreme court of Rhode Island, and his opponents, who were in possession of the government of that state, made a requisition on Gov. Hubbard of New Hampshire for his extradition. The governor refused to comply and Dorr was not molested while in this vicinity. He was afterwards arrested in Rhode Island for treason, imprisoned for two or three years, and then released.

There were two musters in town this year. In September, the Sixth and Twentieth regiments mustered together on Nine Lot plain. A fine company of riflemen from West Keene, Capt. Benjamin Gurler, made its first appearance at that time. The two companies of light infantry from Keene and Westmoreland, with their usual spirit and rivalry, turned out with 120 to 130 men each. In October, 1842, the uniformed companies of the Sixth, Twelfth and Twentieth regiments, joined by the Fitchburg Fusileers, about twenty companies in all, mustered on the same ground and were reviewed by Gov. Hubbard.

The building of the railroad from Boston to Fitchburg

was agitated at this time, and meetings were held to arouse the people to the importance of the scheme. A large one at the town hall in Keene, in December, 1842, was addressed by Alvah Crocker of Fitchburg, the chief promotor of the road. At a meeting in Boston in January following, Hon. Thomas M. Edwards was elected one of the directors of that road, and in the spring of that year the work began.

Many deaths of notable persons occurred in 1842, among them Thomas Baker, aged ninety; John Pierce, seventy-seven; Luther Bragg, seventy; Mrs. Harriet, wife of Nathaniel Evans, thirty-four; Mrs. Martha, widow of Samuel Bassett, eighty-seven; John G. Thatcher, fifty-six; Col. Alvah Walker, the "prince of landlords," of the Cheshire House, forty-seven; Phineas Fiske, fifty-seven; Gen. Justus Perry, fifty-three; Francis Faulkner, fifty-five; and Elijah Knight, a Revolutionary soldier who had held a commission in the army, was judge of probate for fourteen years in Windham county, Vermont, and had lived in Keene nearly twenty years, a part of the time keeping the tavern on the "Kate Tyler place."

In 1842, the town had appropriated $950 to build a stone bridge at South Keene. The bridge was built that year, with a single arch, but the key was not sufficiently weighted, and upon removing the timbers after its completion, but before it had been accepted by the town, the arch rose, from the pressure of the heavy abutments, and the whole fabric fell into the stream. In 1843, a committee was chosen to rebuild, consisting of John Elliot, Josiah Colony, Zebadiah Kise, Isaac Gray and Aaron Davis. But there was a controversy about the liability of the contractors, and the matter lingered until 1846, when a wooden bridge was built, which was replaced by an iron structure in 1900.

Pianos kept for sale in town were first introduced in 1843 by Eliphalet Briggs. They were made by Lemuel Gilbert of Boston.

In September, the Twentieth regiment mustered on ground now occupied by Woodland cemetery, the east end of Beaver street, and the residences in that vicinity. The

reviewing officer was Maj. Gen. John McNeil of Hillsboro, who had been a colonel in the war of 1812. One of the young officers of his staff was George Barstow, author of a history of New Hampshire, who made the speech for the general.

The question of building the Cheshire railroad agitated the public at this time, and meetings were held in the larger towns along the line. One here, in December, 1843, in the Congregational church, was presided over by Hon. Salma Hale. Hon. Thomas M. Edwards made a stirring speech and the meeting was enthusiastic. A central committee to push the enterprise was appointed, consisting of Salma Hale and John H. Fuller of Keene, George Huntington of Walpole, Amos A. Parker of Fitzwilliam, Wareham Rand of Winchendon, and Stackpole & Phelps of Boston. Books were opened, and $40,000 were subscribed here in the first two days. Later reports of the engineers of the Fitchburg road gave the preference to the route through Templeton and Greenfield to Brattleboro, and the Massachusetts legislature granted a charter for that line, but declined to grant one for the one through Winchendon and Keene to Bellows Falls. That action produced excitement along the Cheshire line; there was much discussion of the different routes; the extension of this line to Rutland and Burlington was vigorously agitated both by the Cheshire advocates and the people of Vermont; and another large and spirited meeting was held in the town hall here in April, 1844.

In June, 1844, the New Hampshire legislature granted a charter for the Fitchburg, Keene & Connecticut River Railroad. That charter was at first accepted; but upon the report of Benaiah Cooke, agent to agree with the owners upon land damages, the charter was rejected by the corporators.

The charter for the Cheshire railroad was then obtained and the first meeting for organization was held in Keene on the 10th of January, 1845. The charter was accepted, Hon. Salma Hale was chosen president and Benaiah Cooke clerk of the corporation. A committee consisting of Thomas M. Edwards, Samuel Dinsmoor, John H.

Elliot and four from other towns was appointed to secure a charter from Massachusetts and lay out the road. Mr. Edwards went before the joint committee of the Massachusetts legislature and made a powerful speech in favor of the charter. The Greenfield and Brattleboro road fought it, as dangerous to their line, but the charter was granted without delay.

In March, 1845, the Fitchburg road began running cars to Fitchburg. On the 21st of that month the books of the Cheshire road were opened and in four days $131,300 had been subscribed; and on the 30th of April 9,000 of the 10,000 shares at $100 each had been taken—$900,000—and all were taken before the middle of May. In June, the shares sold in Boston at a premium of four per cent. Three of the seven directors chosen at the first annual meeting were from Keene—Thomas M. Edwards, Salma Hale and Benj. F. Adams—and Mr. Edwards was chosen president. Much time was required by the engineers, W. S. Whitwell and Lucian Tilton, for locating the road among the hills and through Keene, but in August, 1845, proposals for grading were called for, and in September contracts were let for the grading between Keene and Winchendon. The land damages paid for the whole distance between those towns were less than $7,000, the owners generally accepting small compensation with a view to aiding the road.

At the adjourned annual town meeting in 1844, Mr. William Lamson presented a communication, which was entered in full in the town records, asking that the old burying ground on the Robinson farm at the south end of Main street be fenced and preserved. A committee was appointed, consisting of Calvin Chapman, Salma Hale and Aaron Hall, who were to confer with Mr. Robinson concerning the matter and report at the next town meeting. At the next annual meeting the same committee was authorized to fence the ground. But nothing was done, and in 1846 the town directed the selectmen to fence the ground, "provided Mr. Robinson consents and the expense does not exceed seventy-five dollars." Still nothing was done, for Mr. Robinson was unwilling to surrender the

rights he had gained. Thus the sacred burial place of the earliest inhabitants of Keene, many of them distinguished men and women,[1] was suffered to be lost to official and affectionate care.

Washington's birthday in 1845 was celebrated by the Washington Total Abstinence Society, Dr. Amos Twitchell, president, which held its annual meeting on that day. "Father Taylor," the distinguished temperance advocate, of Boston, made the principal address.

At a legal meeting in September, 1845, the town "Resolved That all places where playing cards or other gambling articles, and all intoxicating drinks are kept and sold, and other immoralities are practised, is hereby taken and deemed by the good people of this town, to be a public nuisance;" and at the annual meeting following, it was voted to "instruct the selectmen not to grant license for the sale of wine and spirituous liquors within said town" —the vote standing 251 to 41. In 1847 and 1848, similar votes were passed.

Teachers' institutes for the county were held in Keene oftener than anywhere else, the towns appropriating money for their support. In 1845, a four weeks' session was held here in April, presided over by Hon. Salma Hale; and another in October.

William L. Foster, who had recently opened a law office in Keene, was appointed postmaster. In August he removed the office from below the Cheshire House to the store of his father, Mr. John Foster, on the west side of the Square, now Whitcomb's.

It was in the autumn of 1845 that the potato rot first made its appearance in this region. For several years following, the crop was almost wholly destroyed by it and a total loss of that tuber was feared, but it has since been gradually recovering from the attack.

David Carpenter died in April, aged eighty-six. He had served nearly through the Revolutionary war, was at the surrender of Burgoyne and several other battles, and was one of the guard at the execution of Major Andre.

[1] Capt. Ephraim Dorman, Col. Isaac Wyman, Major Josiah Willard and most of the leaders in the settlement of Keene, with their wives, were buried there, as that was the first burial place in town and the principal one until 1795.

On the 1st day of January, 1846, the Keene Fire Society, a vigorous institution then nearly a quarter of a century old, had its annual meeting and supper at the Cheshire House. Its officers had always been the leading men of the town, the clergy were always invited to its annual supper, and it was an enjoyable and important gathering of the citizens. Spirituous liquors had been banished from its tables twenty years before this time. But the next year the society turned over to the town all its property, consisting of two fire engines, leathern hose, fire-buckets and engine house, which stood on the Cheshire House grounds, Roxbury street; and the Keene Fire Society ceased to exist. Two years later the town, with one-third of the expense paid by subscriptions, bought a new engine and other apparatus.

In February, the large cabinet and furniture shop of E. & W S. Briggs, on Washington street, near the Square, with the old two-story brick schoolhouse north of it, used for a joiner's shop and lumber room, a carriage house belonging to French's stable, the two-story house of Joseph Willard, south of the shops, with barn, were all destroyed by fire; with a large quantity of lumber, furniture, machinery, etc. It was Sunday morning, just at the hour for church services. Mr. Livermore dismissed his congregation and went with them and assisted vigorously at the fire; but Mr. Barstow, as tradition has it, with a different conscientiousness and a devout sense of his religious duty, although his church edifice was in great danger, continued his services as if it had been the usual quiet New England Sunday morning. Two lines were formed, as usual, to the town well on the south side of the Square, for passing buckets. The weather was intensely cold, but there was no wind and the village was saved from a further spread of the flames. The loss was about $6,500, over and above a small insurance.

The Briggses moved to the Thomas F. Ames building, east side of Main, below Church street, which they bought, and carried on business there for several years.

There was a controversy in 1846 about the location of the railroad station in town, some of the citizens preferring

the present spot, others wishing to have the road cross Main street between Water and Marlboro streets. To induce the railroad corporation to decide upon the present spot the citizens subscribed $4,500,[1] bought the present station grounds of the estate of Capt. Joseph Dorr and his wife, including the orchard, where the Episcopal church and the houses of Mrs. Edward Joslin, the two Faulkners and Mrs. Tilden now stand—the last purchase from the old Capt. Josiah Richardson farm—and made it a gift to the railroad. The commissioners then decided the question in accordance with the wishes of the corporation and of the majority of the citizens.

The Twentieth regiment mustered in Keene in September, 1846, Col. Virgil M. Kimball commanding. Capt. Francis S. Fiske commanded the Keene Light Infantry, and there was the usual emulation and antagonism between the Keene and the Westmoreland "Lights."

The Mexican war had broken out in May, and New Hampshire was called upon for two regiments of troops; but not many New Hampshire men were disposed to volunteer. One battalion was ordered by Gov. Steele to be prepared and held in readiness. In June, a mass meeting was held at Concord for the purpose of arousing the people to the support of the government in the war, at which Gen. James Wilson of Keene and Col. Franklin Pierce of Concord made patriotic speeches, and both were reported as having volunteered; but the statement was true of Pierce only. The next year Col. Trueman B. Ransom raised a regiment of Vermont and New Hampshire volunteers which joined Gen. Scott's army. At Molino del Rey, Capt. Charles B. Daniels of Keene, in the regular army, was mortally wounded while gallantly leading an assault; and Capt. Albemarle Cady, a native of Keene, in the Sixth infantry, was wounded, and promoted to brevet major for gallant and meritorious conduct.

At the annual election in 1847, the town chose three representatives to the legislature; and Gen. James Wilson of Keene was elected to congress. The county having

[1] A. & T. Hall gave $800; Azel Wilder $400; J. & J. W. Prentiss $350; Abijah Wilder $300; S. A. Gerould and William Lamson $200 each; and fifty others smaller sums.

allowed its rights in the courthouse to lapse by failing to comply with the conditions of the gift of the land on which it stood, the town thereby lost its public hall, and a committee of five, of which Hon. Joel Parker was chairman, was chosen to devise ways and means to build. At a legal meeting on the 31st of March, 1847, that committee made a long report—recorded in the town books—and the subject was recommitted to the same committee, to report at the next annual meeting.

The old Cheshire bank building having been removed to give place to the railroad, the present structure with its granite front was built. The passenger station was also built in 1847, and the road was opened in the autumn for use as far as Winchendon, and soon afterwards to Troy.

The building of the railroad through the "summit" required a large force, and many Irish families with children settled there in temporary cabins. The Ladies' Charitable Society of Keene established a school for those children under the direction of the wives of the three clergymen in town, Mrs. Barstow, Mrs. Livermore and Mrs. Gilbert Robbins. The Irishmen put up a suitable shanty and a Miss Soule, from Vermont, taught about sixty pupils there for ten weeks in the spring and summer, and Miss Nancy Towns of Keene was employed for a fall term, the same year. At the next annual meeting, in 1848, the town appropriated fifty dollars from the literary fund for a school there, to be expended under the direction of the selectmen. That aggregation of Irishmen of different clans, particularly of "Corkonians" and "Fardowners," produced a population of very excitable nature. The failure of one company of contractors after another to complete their work and pay their men gave cause for complaint, and in the autumn of 1848, matters culminated in a riot. Stones, brickbats, knives and guns were used and several persons were seriously injured. Mr. John Foster was sheriff of the county at that time, and the riot became so serious that he called on the Keene Light Infantry for assistance. A detachment of the company hastened to the scene in teams, each man supplied with sixty rounds of ball cartridges. But the presence of armed troops cooled the ardor

of the rioters, and the affair ended with the arrest, conviction and punishment by heavy fines and costs of upwards of twenty of the ringleaders. A similar affair occurred earlier at what was then Bruce's tavern, in Marlboro, near the present railroad station on that line of road.

The Twentieth regiment mustered in Keene again in 1847, but only the uniformed companies, the infantry companies of the line having disbanded. The "Keene Lights" were commanded by Capt. S. A. Gerould, Jr.

Among the deaths in 1847 were those of Capt. Aaron Hall, aged sixty-two; Aaron Wilson, eighty-eight; and Michael Metcalf, eighty-six. Mr. Metcalf was born in the fort in Keene, and after the age of seven lived on the "Metcalf farm," in Ash Swamp, where Mr. Henry O. Spaulding now lives. He built the brick house on that place, and the one east of it for his son. He lived to see seven generations of his family.

The committee appointed in 1847 on the question of building a town hall reported verbally at the annual meeting in 1848, and a building committee consisting of Levi Chamberlain, Samuel Dinsmoor, Nathan Bassett, Samuel Wood, Thomas H. Leverett, Joshua Wyman and George Tilden was chosen by the town, with authority to purchase a site and "erect thereon a building with suitable accommodations for town purposes," and "to hire money in behalf of the town, to pay the expenses thereof," and the main part of the present edifice[1] was built that season. Charles Edward Parker of Boston, a native of Keene, son of Elijah, was the architect, and Lanmon Nims was the contractor.

The selectmen were directed to take 1,500 copies of Mr. Hale's new edition of the Annals of Keene, at a reasonable price to be agreed upon.

On the 16th of May, 1848, the Cheshire railroad was opened to Keene. The morning train brought Mayor Quincy of Boston, Mayor Warren of Charlestown, S. M. Felton, Alvah Crocker and many other distinguished men, with the Suffolk brass band. The day was fine, people along the route joined the train, and when it reached Keene,

[1] Additions have since been made, and the inside has been completely remodelled.

at half past one o'clock, it consisted of twelve long passenger cars decorated with flags and evergreen, besides three platform cars with seats, containing, in all, about 1,200 people. As it came in sight, two miles distant, and rolled into the station, the bells were rung, cannon fired, and a crowd of five thousand people shouted its greeting. A procession formed and marched to the town hall, where a short meeting of the corporation was held, then reformed and returned to the station, where tables were set on the platform for fifteen hundred persons. Speeches were made, songs were sung, and the Suffolk band gave some of its fine music. The event was highly successful and gratifying. Hon. Levi Chamberlain was chairman of the committee of arrangements and Hon. Thomas M. Edwards, president of the road, presided over the exercises, and gave a reception in the evening. Mr. Lucian Tilton was chief engineer and the first superintendent, and the road was pronounced to be of superior character. The massive and graceful arch over the Branch at South Keene—a single span ninety feet broad and sixty feet high, designed by Mr. Tilton and built under his direction—is one of the finest of the kind in the country and worth travelling a long distance to see. Keene took about $300,000 of the stock of the road, besides $50,000 in the Fitchburg, and many thousands in other roads. On the first of July two regular trains a day, each way, were put on, leaving both Boston and Keene at 7 a. m. and 2 p. m., and arriving at 11 a. m. and 6 p. m. On the first day of January, 1849, the cars ran through to Bellows Falls, and soon afterwards the road was opened to that point for regular traffic.

The wives of Dr. Amos Twitchell and Gen. James Wilson died in 1848, and very tender and appropriate obituary notices of each were published.

On the 28th of February, 1849, the new town hall, which had been finished during the winter, was dedicated with a grand citizens' ball, under the general management of a committee of twenty-five, headed by the building committee. About five hundred persons attended; and for many years afterwards the "Citizens' Annual Ball" at the town hall was an important and enjoyable function.

SAMUEL DINSMOOR, JR.

The annual town meeting of 1849 was held in the new hall. The building committee reported that the lot purchased of Sumner Wheeler, executor of the estate of Gen. Justus Perry, cost $1,750; and the building—60x80, 20 feet posts—$13,829.08; total, $15,579.08. At that election Samuel Dinsmoor was chosen governor and Gen. James Wilson was reëlected to congress. Levi Chamberlain was the Whig candidate for governor that year and the next, but that party was in the minority in New Hampshire.

Selden F. White was appointed postmaster to succeed William L. Foster, and the postoffice was removed to his store in Wilders' building. In July, Mrs. Anne E. (Jarvis), wife of Gov. Dinsmoor, died, and a very touching and affectionate obituary of her was published.

For nearly twenty years previous to 1847, public interest in agricultural fairs had languished. A society had been in existence, called at one time the Cheshire County Association for the Promotion of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, which held a very creditable "cattle show" in Keene in 1843, and paid out a large sum in premiums; but the exhibitions were not kept up. In 1847, there was a revival of interest, the Cheshire County Agricultural Society was formed and a fine exhibition was given here in October, followed by a similar one the next year. Hon. Salma Hale was president, and the leading men and women gave it their support. In 1849 it gave a remarkably fine exhibition. Sixty pairs of oxen were entered for premiums, and more than 100 pairs were on exhibition. There was a profusion of fruit and produce of all kinds, fancy articles and manufactures. Among those who took premiums were Dr. Amos Twitchell, Mrs. A. A. Livermore, Mrs. George Tilden, Mrs. Sarah Sturtevant and Miss Pamela M. Prentiss. The next year the display was considered fully equal to that of Worcester county, Mass., one of the best in the country; and for several years a high standard was maintained.

The project of building the Ashuelot railroad was started as early as 1845-6, and was vigorously pushed by John H. Fuller and others. It was surveyed in 1847, a

charter obtained in 1848, and after many difficulties had been overcome, and much delay in raising funds, the road was built in 1850. It was leased to the Connecticut River railroad, and trains began to run in 1851. John H. Fuller was president of the corporation.

At the close of the decade ending 1850 and the beginning of the second half of the nineteenth century, "Keene Street" had become a thriving village of about 1,500 inhabitants—the whole number in the town about 3,400—with direct lines of railroad to Boston and New York, and its position as the most important town in Cheshire county firmly established. Its growth was slow, but constant and healthful. Its men of business were almost invariably successful and many of its farmers acquired wealth. True, the staunch old firm of A. &. T. Hall, which for forty years had been the trusted merchants and bankers of many customers, through the expansion and complications of their business and insecure investments, had been compelled to close, but that was an extreme case. The store was bought by Henry Pond, refitted, and for many years afterwards was occupied by Charles Bridgman, an enterprising grocer who had begun business here in 1845, with Alfred Hebard, in the Lamson store, and later had taken the "Railroad Store," where Gurnsey's block now stands. James B. Elliot & Co. had succeeded B. F. Adams & Co. in the hardware store in Elliot's building, still leaving the corner room for John Bixby's drug store. In 1843, Joshua D. Colony withdrew from the firm of Keyes & Colony, and established that of J. D. & T. Colony on the east side of the Square, and E. & F. H. Keyes, afterwards E. C. & F. H. Keyes, continued on the corner of West street until 1851. The Colonys—later, J. D. Colony & Co., including Timothy and Henry Colony— also carried on the manufacture of window glass, and were the last to utilize the old north factory. In 1851, George H. Richards bought the Lamson store and removed his jewelry business to the corner room, next to Roxbury street. The main part of that store, upon the retirement of Mr. Lamson in 1841, had been occupied by his partners, Denny & Briggs, afterwards by Bridgman & Hebard, then by Hebard &

Tilden (Geo. W.), and later by Tilden & Colony (J. D. C.). Lucius H. & Joseph W. Briggs, afterwards Briggs & Kimball, succeeded Sumner Wheeler in the Justus Perry store, but the glass bottle business on Marlboro street had been sold and removed to Stoddard. J. & R. Shelly occupied the store next north of the Briggses, but in 1851 they took the one on the "cheap corner" (Keyes & Colony's). Selden F. White and Hager & Whitcomb, succeeded by D. W. Buckminster & Co., were in Wilders' building; and Buffum & Parker, for a long term of years, were on the west side of the Square, in the present Whitcomb store. Kidder & Winchester, afterwards E. W. Winchester (who married a daughter of Abijah Kingsbury), succeeded Abijah Wilder in the cabinet and furniture business, and they and the Briggses were each doing a large business. Wm. A. Norwood, afterwards Norwood & Weeks, succeeded Norwood & Hubbard, tinsmiths, on the west side of Court street, where Barker's block now stands; and a little later J. C. & T. New followed John P. Barber & Co. in the tin and stove business in the old brick store where the Sentinel building now stands. Joseph and Ephraim Foster—afterwards Fosters & Felt—were manufacturing parlor organs and melodeons on the west side of Court street; Jason and William French, who came from Brattleboro, were making sleighs and carriages on Church street, on the site now occupied by the Jones building; and Marvin T. Tottingham had a shop over them for sign and ornamental painting. Chester Allen was taking daguerreotypes in Gerould's block and continued that business there for many years.

Drs. Geo. B. Twitchell and A. S. Carpenter had come to town. Dr. Twitchell occupied the house on Washington street, now Mrs. Sarah D. Wheeler's, and Dr. Carpenter's office was in Briggs' building below the old Unitarian church. Dr. Thomas B. Kittredge came from Claremont soon afterwards, bought the stone house on Washington street, corner of Taylor, and spent the remainder of his life there—an excellent physician and a highly respected citizen. William P. Wheeler, C. C. Webster, Edward Farrar and Farnum F. Lane had joined the corps of attorneys in town.

A large social book club, an important organization for literary culture, was in existence at this time. It was started in 1847 by Rev. A. A. Livermore, and contained, besides choice books, all the leading periodicals of the day, English and American.

On the 2d of October, 1850, was held the last of the old-time military musters in Keene. It was a muster of all the "independent" uniformed companies of the Fifth brigade. Those that were particularly noticed for their fine appearance were the Keene, Westmoreland and Winchester light infantry companies, the Fitzwilliam artillery, the Jaffrey rifles and the Richmond grenadiers. D. W Buckminster commanded the Keene Light Infantry. But the day was stormy and the pouring rain added to the funereal aspect of the occasion.

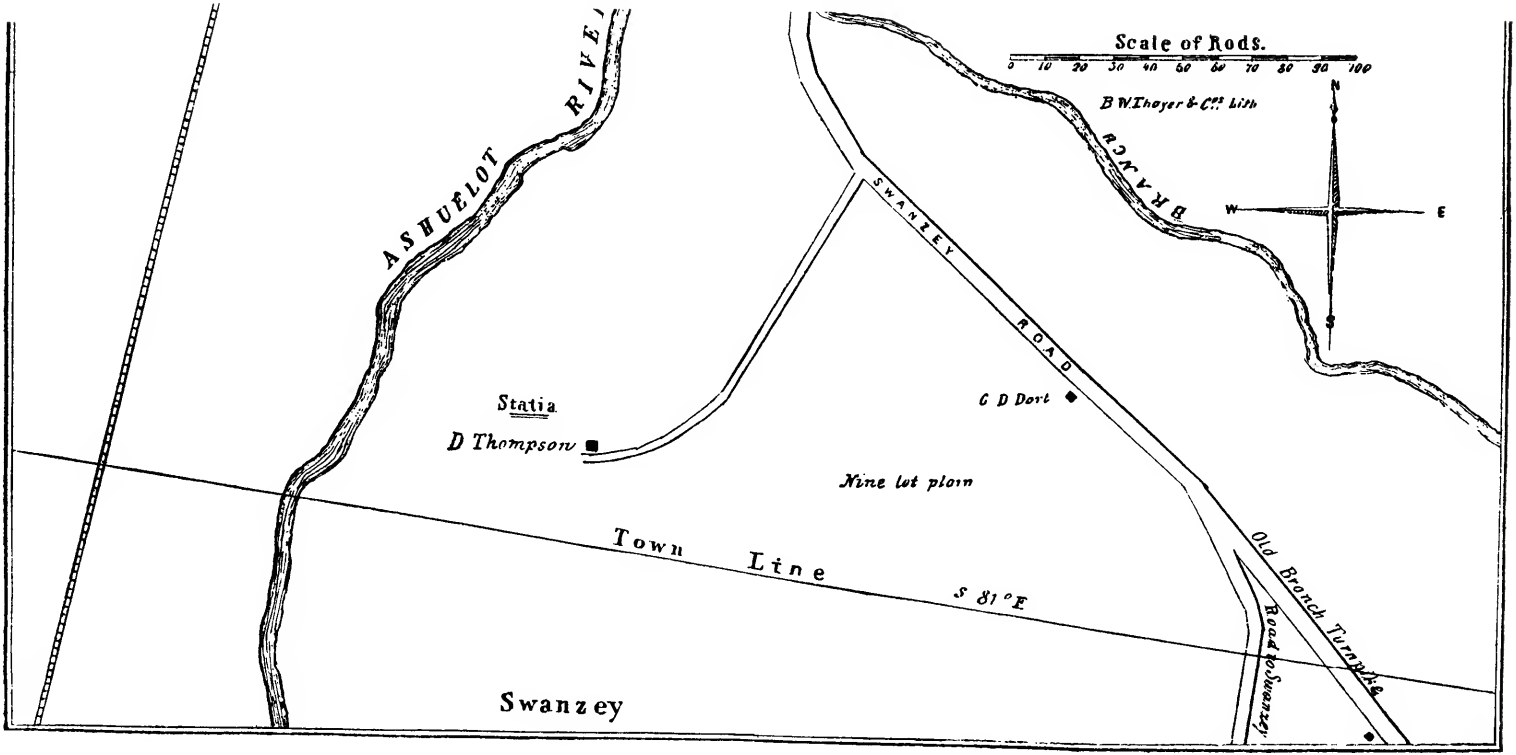
The census of 1850 gave Keene a population of 3,392 —3,381 white and 11 colored. The total population of the United States was 19,387,671.

The Cheshire Provident Institution for Savings reported the amount of deposits on hand to be, after seventeen years of existence, $391,290.09.

The twelve highest taxpayers were Josiah Colony, John Elliot, Charles S. Faulkner, Charles Lamson, Cheshire Provident Institution for Savings, Thomas M. Edwards, Aaron Appleton, William Dinsmoor, Calvin Page, Cheshire railroad, Charles G. Adams and John Towns.

The Sons of Temperance, the Washingtonians and other temperance organizations, and the citizens generally, celebrated the 4th of July, 1851. Hon. Jared Perkins presided and Rev. A. L. Stone of Boston was the orator. It was to have been an outdoor affair, but rain fell, and it was held in the town hall.

The New Hampshire Union railroad was incorporated in 1851, to run from Keene to Concord via Hillsboro Bridge. The first meeting of the grantees was held at the Cheshire House. Samuel Dinsmoor and Josiah Colony were chosen directors for Keene; Samuel Dinsmoor, president, Wm. L. Foster, clerk. But the probable amount of business did not warrant the cost, and the enterprise was abandoned.


Scale of Rods.
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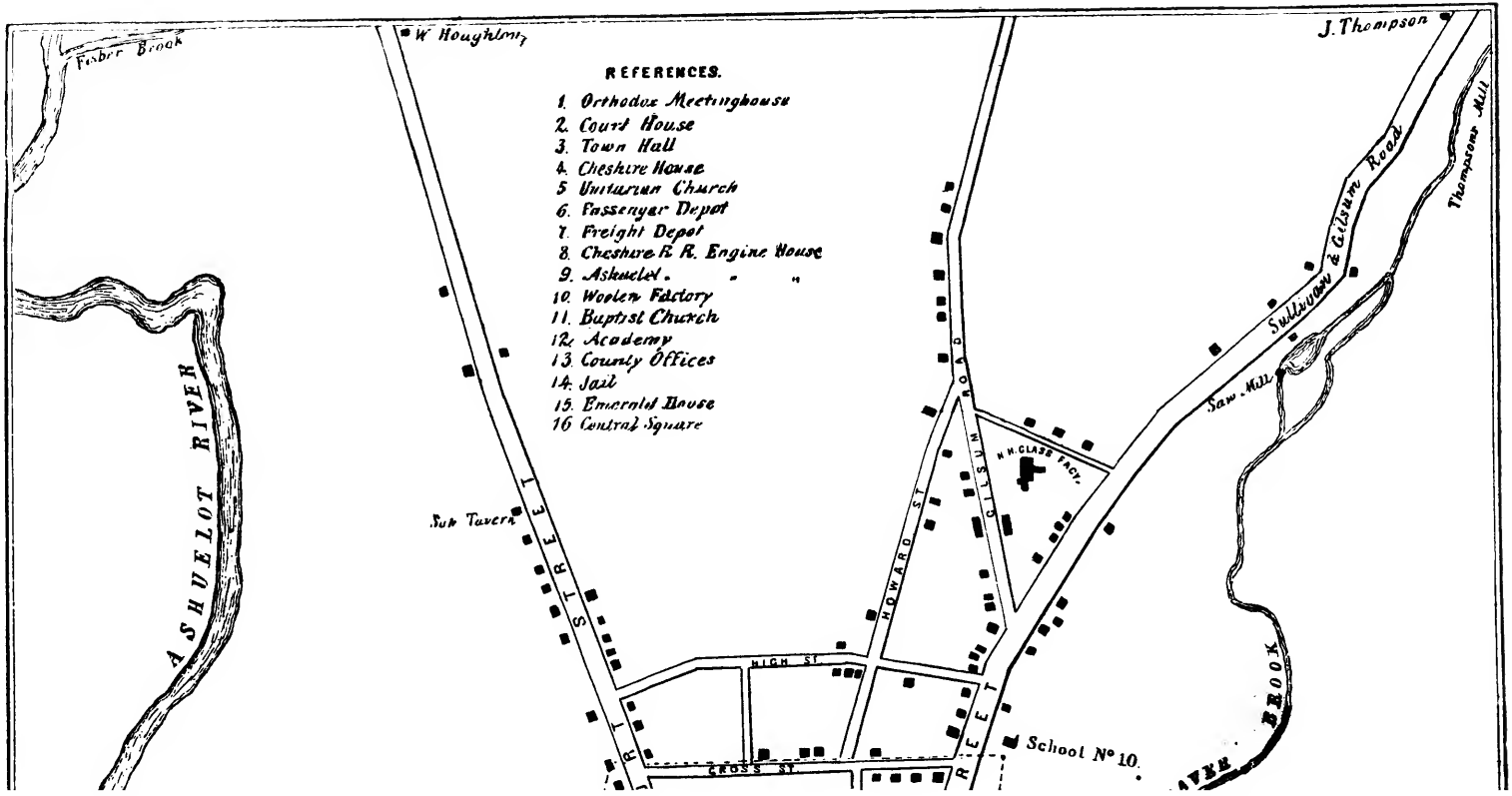
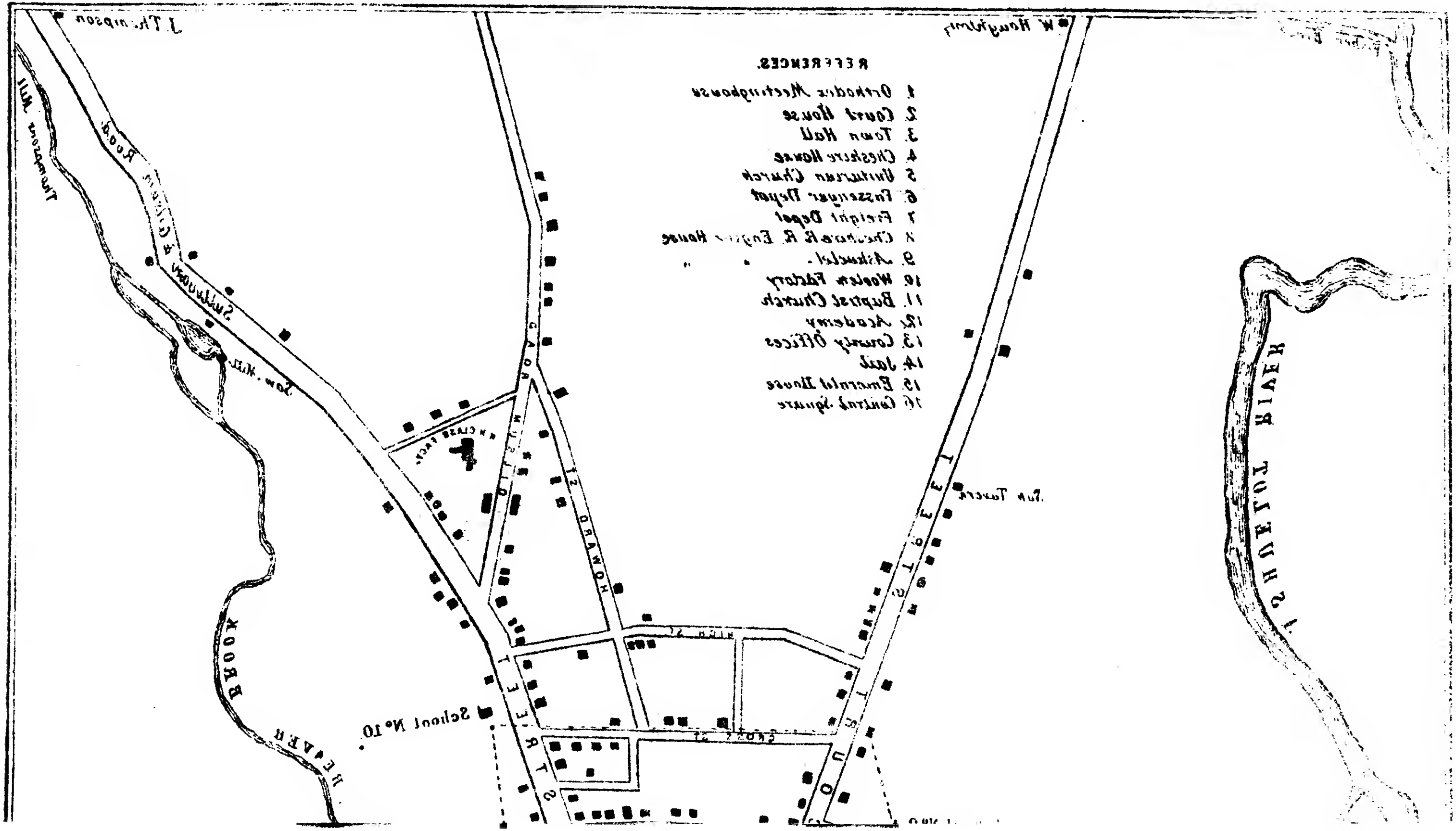

Fesber Brook
W. Houghton
REFERENCES.
1. Orthodox Meetinghouse
2. Court House
3. Town Hall
4. Cheshire House
5. Unitarian Church
6. Passenger Depot
7. Freight Depot
8. Cheshire R. R. Engine House
9. Askueleta " "
10. Woolen Factory
11. Baptist Church
12. Academy
13. County Offices
14. Jail
15. Emerald House
16. Central Square
J. Thompson
Sullivan & Gilsum Road
Thompsons Mill
ASHUELOT RIVER
STREET
MAIN
HOWARD ST
GILSUM ROAD
N.H. GLASS FACT.
Saw Mill
Sun Tavern
HIGH ST
CROSS ST
STREET
School No 10.
BROOK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Sullivan & Gilsum Road
Saw Mill
HOWARD ST
HIGH ST
CROSS ST
SOUTH STREET
STREET

Ever since its first settlement the citizens of Keene have taken a deep interest in the beauty and reputation of their town, and have endeavored to ornament and improve it wherever there was opportunity. The agitation for enlarging and beautifying the common in 1820 and previous to that date, has already been referred to, and the improvements made in 1828 have been described. When those radical changes had been completed the common was left a broad, open square, which, although in handsome form for the center of the village, was described in 1840[1] as a "sandy waste." One of the methods adopted for the improvement of the appearance of the town was the formation of the Forest Tree Society, and at a legal meeting in November, 1844, the town passed a vote permitting that society "to fence in and ornament a small central portion of the Common of such size and shape as the Selectmen shall deem compatible" with the convenience of the public highway. For many years that society was active and energetic and did much towards ornamenting our streets with trees. At its annual meeting in September of that year (1844), it reported having planted in the spring 141 trees, ninety-nine of which were then alive. But there was bitter opposition to the project of planting trees to "conceal the signs" of the traders or in any way obstructing the free use of that public common—the parade ground of the military, and the rendezvous and market place of the farmers and others, with their teams—and threats were made that such trees would be very quickly uprooted and removed if they were planted there. So the planting of the trees was delayed; but the wordy controversy continued until the spring of 1851, when the Forest Tree Society, the more active members of which were George A. Wheelock, Dr. F. S. Stratton, George H. Richards, Francis S. Fiske, Selden F. White and a few others, ploughed up a small circle, about fifty feet in diameter, in the center of the Square, planted a few trees, which they brought from the "Statia" farm, and enclosed the area with a fence. The oak tree grew from an acorn planted by Eliphalet Hale, a

[1] Until within a few years of that time a large guide board had stood at the south side of the common pointing the way and giving the distances in miles to Boston, Walpole, Montpelier and many other places.

retired merchant of Boston who was boarding here at that time. Twice since 1851 the area of the park has been enlarged and other trees added, and in 1860 gravelled walks were laid, radiating from the center as at present.

In compliance with a vote of the town at the annual meeting in 1852, the selectmen procured a fireproof safe for keeping the town records.

At South Keene important improvements were made. In 1830 to 1833, George Page had a small shop—with a lathe operated by foot and later by horse power—on the site of the present Washington school grounds, where, with the financial aid of Thomas M. Edwards, he secured a patent and made mortising machines, under the firm name of T. M. Edwards & Co. About 1834, they were joined by J. A. Fay and Edward Joslin. In 1837, to get the benefit of water power, they bought one-half of the hoe making shop of Aaron Davis and removed to South Keene. They enlarged the shop; Messrs. Edwards, Davis and Page sold out; and the firm became J. A. Fay & Co. They made planing and mortising machines, and all kinds of wood-working machinery—the first ever made in America. In 1847, to meet the large demand for their machines, they established branch factories at Norwich, Conn., and Cincinnati, O.; and this year (1852) built the factory at South Keene. The branches soon became large establishments, that at Cincinnati being the largest of the kind in the world, with a capital of $1,500,000, and the whole establishment bears the corporate name of the J. A. Fay & Egan Co. In 1862, all the manufacturing was transferred to Norwich and Cincinnati, and the factory at South Keene was closed. Mr. Fay died in 1854, and Mr. Joslin in 1901.

Upon retiring from the above enterprise, Aaron Davis, with his sons, established the iron foundry on Davis street, near Ashuelot river. Mr. Davis died in 1857, and was succeeded in the business by his son, Alfred S., and he by Moses Ellis, who rebuilt the foundry and enlarged and improved the business.

At the national election in November, 1852, the town "Voted That the Selectmen in conjunction with the board

of Fire Engineers, be authorized to purchase a suitable number and proper uniforms to be kept by said Town, for the use of each member of the several Fire Engine companies of said Town."

The Ashuelot Fire Insurance Company (mutual) was organized in February, 1853, with Thomas M. Edwards, Benj. F. Adams, William Dinsmoor, Sumner Wheeler and Francis S. Fiske incorporators. It did a successful business in this and adjoining counties for nearly half a century.

In 1848-9, two young men—one a Mr. Towns—began operations in a small building on our present Mechanic street, where the main shops now stand, with a twelve horse-power engine. Soon afterwards Mr. Lanmon Nims came from Sullivan and bought them out, took in Nelson N. Sawyer and Sawyer Porter as partners—afterwards Daniel Buss, the firm becoming Nims & Buss—enlarged the plant and manufactured sash, doors and blinds. Mr. Cyrus Woodward succeeded Mr. Nims, and for a few years the firm was Buss & Woodward. In 1856, the buildings were destroyed by fire, causing a loss of $1,500 to $2,000. The property then passed into the hands of S. D. Osborne and S. W. Hale, and the shops were rebuilt for the manufacture of chairs, Messrs. Lanmon Nims and Samuel B. Crossfield (Nims & Crossfield) hiring power and continuing the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds. The Keene Steam Power Co. was organized in February, 1853, for the purpose of improving this property, but the necessary capital was not raised and the project was abandoned for that time.

Joshua D. Colony was appointed postmaster to succeed Selden F. White, and removed the office to the east side of the Square, where it remained twelve years.

The centennial anniversary of the organization of the town under the New Hampshire charter was celebrated on the 26th of May, 1853, in compliance with a vote of the town at the annual meeting in March, when $500 were appropriated for that purpose.[1] A large tent had been pitched on a green plat near the Square, but the rain poured in torrents and the exercises were held in the town

[1] $356.40 were afterwards appropriated to meet a deficit.

hall. Hon. Thomas M. Edwards was president of the day; Hon. Levi Chamberlain was chief marshal; and Samuel Dinsmoor, Salma Hale, Charles G. Adams, John Elliot, John Wood, Josiah Colony, Elijah Parker, Timothy Hall, John Prentiss, John H. Fuller, Charles Lamson, Samuel Wood, Thomas F. Ames, George Tilden, Abel Blake, Enos Holbrook, Luther Nurse, B. F. Adams, William Lamson, Calvin Chapman, Sumner Wheeler, J. D. Colony, Thomas H. Leverett, Michael Metcalf, Daniel Watson, Samuel Towns, Noah R. Cooke, James Buffum, Kendall Crossfield, Josiah Sawyer, Geo. K. Wright, J. W. Briggs, Albert Godfrey, Harvey A. Bill, Charles S. Faulkner, Abijah Wilder, Eliphalet Briggs, Wm. P Wheeler, John H. Elliot, F. A. Faulkner, F. F. Lane, Virgil M. Kimball, Geo. B. Twitchell, Wm. S. Briggs, Geo. A. Wheelock, James B. Elliot, Leonard Bisco, Isaac Sturtevant, Joshua Wyman, Robert Wilson, S. A. Gerould, Jr., Edward Farrar, J. W. Prentiss, S. F. White, F. S. Fiske, and others, served as vice presidents, members of committees, secretaries, marshals, etc. A large number of natives who had left town, and other former residents, returned to assist at this celebration.

The program of exercises was as follows:

1. Prayer by Rev. Z. S. Barstow, D. D.
2. Ode, written for the occasion by Rev. Gilbert Robbins of the Baptist church, and sung by a large choir under the direction of Wm. S. Hutchins.
3. Oration by Hon. Joel Parker, professor of law in Harvard university, late chief justice of New Hampshire.
4. Anthem by the choir.
5. Concluding prayer by Rev. Gilbert Robbins.

The rain having ceased, a procession was formed, headed by the Boston Brigade band, P. S. Gilmore, leader, and marched down Main street, to the Eli Metcalf lot, the site now occupied by Mrs. Ball's residence, where a collation under a tent was provided by Mr. John Wright of Boston, with seats for 2,000 persons; and although many were kept away by the storm, 1,700 to 1,800 were present. Grace was said by Rev. Wm. O. White, and at the close, thanks were offered by Rev. Mr. Quimby. The following toasts were announced by the president—as prepared by a committee:

1. "Our Centennial Celebration—with all its reverential and pleasant memories." Dr. Watts's version of the 78th psalm was sung to the tune of St. Martins by the whole assembly, led by the choir and accompanied by the band.

2. "Sir Benjamin Keene—We pay the debt for his name by 'keeping his memory green.'" The band played "Over the Waters to Charley."

3. "The First Settlers and Early Inhabitants of Keene—May their foresight, their energy, their sacrifices, be held in grateful remembrance by those who reap where they sowed." Singing, "Auld Lang Syne." Response by Mr. John Prentiss.

4. "The Ladies of Keene—The first census showed their superiority in numbers, and our whole history bears testimony to the influence of their virtues and graces." The band, "Believe me if all those endearing young charms." Response by Dea. Samuel Greele, of Boston. The president of the day gave: "The memory of Miss Catherine Fiske."

5. "The Ashuelot—That bright stream which gave the first Indian and poetical name to our town." Band, "The Meeting of the Waters." Response by Gideon F. Thayer of Boston.

6. "The Sons of Keene who have left us—The reports that come back to us prove that they have done us honor abroad." Band, "Oft in the Stilly Night." Responses by George S. Hale of Boston and Horatio G. Parker, then of Greenfield, Mass.

7. "The House of Nathan Blake—The first house erected in the township; and the Meeting House of 1753, built of slabs, with earthen floor." Band, "I remember the house where I was born." Responded to by Rev. Geo. G. Ingersoll, D. D., of Keene, with a witty original poem upon local matters in which were the lines:

> "The Keene that was, dream of an earlier year,
> Its very name was music to my ear,
> * * * * * *
> Like some sweet, far off, visionary scene,
> My very name for Fairy-Land was 'Keene.'"

8. "The 'worthy Jacob Bacon,' the first Minister of Upper Ashuelot, and his worthy successors, the Ministers of Keene." Singing, "Ye Christian Heralds," Zenner. Response by Rev. Dr. Barstow, and Rev. David Oliphant, a former minister of Keene.

9. "Old Captain Wyman and the 'Thirty Volunteers' who marched, at twelve hours' warning, against the 'Regulars.'" Band, "Yankee Doodle."

10. "The first annual school tax of six pounds—the last of two thousand dollars." "The Schoolmaster."

11. "The first 'Town Resolve' against 'drinking and tippling,' with the forfeit of 'two shillings for the use of the poor.'" "Rogues' March."

12. "Hon. Daniel Newcomb; and the Bar of Keene in his day, and their worthy successors." "Fine Old English Gentleman."

13. "The Adopted Citizens of Keene—Let their numbers increase; we shall always be glad to give them room and welcome."

In addition to the above, the following volunteer toasts were responded to:

1. "The Traders of Keene forty years ago, and the Merchants of Boston today." Response by Isaac Parker, of Boston, formerly a trader in Keene.

2. "The Author of the Annals of Keene—He has secured for himself an honorable place in the annals of any future historian of the town." Response by Hon. Salma Hale.

3. "New Hampshire and Massachusetts, Keene and Boston—May they ever continue to pursue with one heart and one purpose whatever is patriotic, or elevated, or philosophic for the amelioration of man." Response by G. F. Thayer.

4. "Moses Johnson—For many years an active, enterprising, and public spirited citizen of the town. He has stamped the impress of those qualities upon various portions of the village in a manner hardly to be effaced by time."

5. "The memories of Dr. Amos Twitchell—The skillful physician and surgeon, and of Capt. Aaron Hall, the benevolent merchant and apothecary."

6. "The memory of Hon. Phineas Handerson—The sound lawyer, upright magistrate, and exemplary Christian."

Hon. Levi Chamberlain was called upon to respond to the thirteenth regular toast, but the lateness of the hour prevented.

The three fire companies of Keene, the Deluge, Tiger and Lion, made their first appearance in new uniforms, with full ranks, and did escort duty. The meeting adjourned for one hundred years. In the evening the band gave a concert at the town hall, and the president of the day opened his house for a general reception.

The general committee by a unanimous vote requested a copy of Judge Parker's oration for publication, and a

committee was appointed to publish a full report of the celebration. At the annual meeting in 1855 the town passed a vote of thanks to Judge Parker "for his learned and eloquent address," and instructed the selectmen to publish twelve hundred copies of it—provided "the expense shall not exceed $250." The address was never published, nor any report of the celebration except by the local newspapers.

The subject was revived at the annual meeting in 1860, and a committee was appointed to procure a copy of the address for publication—300 copies of the pamphlet to be printed instead of 1,200. But Judge Parker's reply to the request—recorded in full in the town books—was to the effect that the address was not historical and therefore would not be of sufficient general interest to warrant its publication.

The Keene Debating Club, a resuscitation of the old Forensic Society, now (1853) held regular meetings, every Tuesday evening, in Odd Fellows' hall. The Keene Lyceum lectures had also been established by Levi Chamberlain, Samuel Dinsmoor, Thomas M. Edwards, Wm. P Wheeler, Wm. O. White, Geo. B. Twitchell, F. A. Faulkner and others, afterwards managed for several years by George Tilden. The list of lecturers comprised the names of Josiah Quincy, Jr., George W. Curtis, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Anson Burlingame, John G. Saxe, Wendell Phillips, J. G. Holland, Bayard Taylor, Charles Sumner, Grace Greenwood, Revs. E. H. Chapin, Starr King and Henry Ward Beecher, and others equally distinguished.

At the annual meeting in 1854, upon the report of a committee previously appointed, the town voted to purchase the "Woodland Cemetery" lot of Thomas M. Edwards, which included a part of the muster field; and the trade was consummated in June. In 1856, a committee, consisting of N. B. Harrington, Timothy Twitchell and Geo. W. Sturtevant, was appointed to lay out and appraise the lots, and Mr. George A. Wheelock was appointed superintendent.

In October, 1854, the State Agricultural Society held its annual fair in Keene, on what is now Wheelock park,

continuing four days. The lot—twenty-five acres—had recently been purchased by the county society, largely through the influence of Thomas H. Leverett, fenced and provided with excellent buildings and conveniences. A building nearly 100 feet long had been erected for the display of fancy articles, farm products and manufactures; a barn for horses; a grand stand capable of seating 2,000 persons; and numerous pens and stalls along the west and north sides of the lot for stock. The display was fine and drew a large number of people. More than 200 pairs of oxen and about 400 head of other cattle were entered for premiums, besides large numbers of horses and other stock. Governor Baker and many distinguished men were present, and the Manchester Cornet band furnished the music. For many years afterwards the Cheshire county fair was a permanent and important institution, excelling other county and even state fairs in the display of fine oxen and other exhibits.

In the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 2, 1854, a wind and snow storm visited Keene, which increased in violence and continued through the night. Much damage was done to buildings, fences and timber. Fifty chimneys in the village were blown down and some buildings were destroyed. More than 500 old growth pine trees, belonging to Stephen Chase, were blown down, and large numbers on a lot in Ash Swamp, on the ministry lot, on the Wright farm on Beech hill, and in other parts of the town. The following summer, Mr. Chase, in connection with his brother Charles, put up a steam sawmill on the east side of the road a few rods north of his house, to cut up the pine timber. After running a few years, the mill was sold to Charles Chase and Madison Fairbanks, who removed it to Ralston street in 1860, increased the power, added other buildings and carried on a large business in the manufacture of sash, doors, blinds and other products of wood. Later the plant was owned and operated by Mr. Fairbanks alone.

On the 30th of December, 1854, the old Watson harness shop, next south of the Cheshire bank, was destroyed by fire. The fire department was commended as being very efficient; there was no wind and other buildings were saved.

The Cheshire County bank was organized in August, 1855, and occupied the brick building which was erected during the summer by Henry Pond on the north half of the Watson lot; capital, $100,000. The board of directors consisted of Zebina Newell, George Huntington, William Haile, Frederic Vose, Amos A. Parker, Lawson Robertson and Harvey A. Bill. The president was Zebina Newell, and the cashier, Geo. W. Tilden. Mr. Newell died in 1858. He was succeeded by Frederic Vose, and he, in 1871, by Edward Joslin, who died in 1901.[1] Mr. Tilden was cashier until his death in 1879, and was succeeded by J. R. Beal, who held the office until his death in 1895, when he was succeeded by Wallace L. Mason. In 1865, it was organized as a national bank, and the name changed to Keene National bank. The capital remained the same.

On the 21st of December, 1855, the old glass factory at the north end of the village, which had been an important landmark for nearly half a century, was destroyed by fire.

Mrs. Betsey (Nourse), widow of Capt. John Leonard (who died in 1829, aged seventy-six), died, December 7, aged one hundred years, seven months and ten days.

The 4th of July, 1856, was celebrated, many people from other towns joining. Hon. Thomas M. Edwards was president of the day, Capt. D. W. Buckminster marshal. A procession was formed on the arrival of the train from Boston and marched through the principal streets of the village. Speeches were made and a collation provided at the Emerald House.

In January, 1857, there was a term of remarkably cold weather, lasting ten days. "The mercury ranged below zero for several days." On the 16th, it fell to 40° below, and at Montpelier, Vt., to 50° below.

A firemen's muster was held here in September, 1857. Sixteen companies from this and neighboring towns, with their engineers—seven of them with military bands—paraded and marched through the streets. In the afternoon there was a trial of efficiency in which the Deluge Company, No. 3, of Claremont, won the first prize, $150; the Franklin, No. 2, of Greenfield, Mass., the second, $100;

[1] Elisha F. Lane followed Mr. Joslin, serving one year. He was succeeded by George A. Litchfield. [EDS.]

and the Alert, No. 1, of Winchendon, the third, $50. The engines were the old-fashioned tubs, with hand brakes, and they threw water to the height of 160 feet.

When the courthouse was removed from the east to the west side of the turnpike, in 1808, Capt. Josiah Richardson gave the land for the new site (conveyed to the county by "lease and demise;" consideration one dollar) with the condition: "To have and to hold the same for the use of a Court house thereon, and for so long a Time as said County shall Choose to use it for that purpose and no longer." When the county was about to build a brick courthouse on the same site in 1824 it procured a deed of the same premises (consideration five dollars) from Joseph Dorr and his wife, Rebecca—sole surviving heir of Capt. Richardson—but that deed contained the same condition as to the use of the land and courthouse as the conveyance of Capt. Richardson. The county forfeited its rights in the premises by permitting the building to be used for other purposes than those of a courthouse. Dea. Samuel Wood purchased the reversionary rights of Mrs. Dorr and brought suit to recover the property. The case was decided against the county in 1856. (See New Hampshire Reports, vol. 32, Wood v. Cheshire Co.) The county convention of the legislature then authorized the purchase of an additional tract of land on the north side of the stone county building, the removal of that building, and the erection of a new courthouse. From a larger committee Thomas M. Edwards, of Keene, and Nelson Converse, of Marlboro, were appointed a sub-committee to superintend the work, and the present courthouse was built in 1858. G. J. F. Bryant of Boston was the architect. The south half of the old courthouse came into possession of S. A. Gerould & Son, was rebuilt, and was for many years the drug store of Dort & Chandler and B. W Hodgkins; the north half is the store of Bullard & Shedd.

At the annual election in 1859, a committee, Wm. S. Briggs, Thomas H. Leverett, and Levi Chamberlain, appointed the previous year, reported that they had purchased a strip of land eighteen feet wide at the north end of the town hall for a driveway, as instructed; and Wm.

COURTHOUSE. ERECTED 1858.

P. Abbott, F. F. Lane and Arba Kidder were appointed a committee to enlarge the hall and provide an entrance at the north end. The enlargement was made later.

Hon. Thomas M. Edwards was elected to congress in 1859.

Early in this year the Young Men's Christian Association of Keene was organized—S. D. Osborne, president; Reuben Stewart, Albert A. Woodward, S. W. Hale, D. R. Calef, Simeon Ballou, directors. They occupied chambers on the east side of the Square.

In 1857, after several years of subsidence, interest in the subject of a public library in Keene again revived. A meeting of the citizens in December appointed Wm. P. Wheeler, Wm. O. White, George Tilden and Wm. H. Thayer a committee to consider the subject, propose a plan of procedure and report at a future meeting. Under the call of that committee a meeting of the citizens was held at the town hall on the 31st of January, 1859, Hon. Thomas M. Edwards, chairman. The result of that meeting was that a voluntary association was organized by Wm. P. Wheeler, John H. Elliot, Geo. B. Twitchell, E. A. Webb, Gilman Joslin, F. F. Lane, Wm. H. Thayer, D. H. Sawyer, Wm. S. Briggs, George Cook, Leonard Bisco and their associates under the general laws of New Hampshire, taking the name of the Keene Public Library. It had a paid-up cash capital of $1,000, in shares of $5 each, and was managed by a board of twelve trustees, chosen each year. The library began its circulation on the 3d of September, 1859, with a few remaining volumes of former libraries, forty-two volumes of public documents, presented by Hon. A. H. Cragin, M. C., fifty-three bound volumes of the New Hampshire Sentinel—1799 to 1852—and other ancient newspapers from John Prentiss, many miscellaneous volumes from others, and about 1,000 new books. Its room was the office of Leonard Bisco, on the second floor in Elliot's block, corner of West street, and Mr. Bisco was the librarian; and there it remained until it was transferred to the city of Keene, in 1874, and was made a free public library. It then numbered 2,644 volumes.

At the annual meeting in 1860 the town voted to

accept the bequest of $1,000 made by David A. Simmons, a native of Keene. The conditions of the bequest were that it "be safely invested and the interest thereof and income only to be forever annually applied by the Selectmen of the said Town for the time being toward the relief and comfort of such of the poor of the Town requiring assistance therefrom who are aged and infirm."[1]

In the original grant of Upper Ashuelot by the province of Massachusetts one "house-lot," or right—one sixty-third part of the township, or a fraction over four hundred acres—was reserved for the first settled minister, one for the ministry and one for the school; and those house lots, carrying with them the rights in the subsequent divisions of the lands, were laid out with those of the sixty individual proprietors and were numbered, respectively, 13, 28 and 29. Again, the New Hampshire charter of 1753 granted "One Sixty forth Parte of the Said Tract (394½ acres) for the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign Parts, One Sixty forth Parte of the Said Tract for the first Settled Minister of the Gospel in S^{d} Town One Sixty forth Parte of the said Tract for A Glebe for the Church of England as by Law Established." In March, 1761, the proprietors granted the minister lands—the one sixty-fourth part of the township as prescribed in the charter—to Rev. Clement Sumner, as the first (permanently) settled minister of the town; and he disposed of those lands at his pleasure, as we find by the records of deeds. But nothing appears to have been done concerning the lands belonging to the "ministry" until 1787, when the proprietors of the undivided lands in Keene voted to lay out in said lands fifty acres to be kept for a woodlot for firewood for the gospel minister of said town, and to be used for no other purpose—to be under the care of the selectmen. This grant of about one-eighth of what both the Massachusetts grant and the New Hampshire charter required of them apparently satisfied the consciences of the proprietors concerning the "ministry" lands.

[1] In 1887, the Simmons fund of $1,000 and the bequest of Susan Eastburn of $300 for the same purpose, with some accrued interest, were deposited in the Guaranty Savings bank, resulting in a serious loss. In 1896, Julius N. Morse bequeathed $1,000 to be added to the Simmons fund.

Concerning the glebe lands we find the following in the proprietors' records:

"Cheshire ss }
} May 28th 1804 Met according to adjournment. On the 2nd Article voted that Elijah Dunbar or any other person or persons legally authorized should lay out one sixty fourth part of said Township for a Glebe for the church of England as by Law established and have the same entered on the Proprietors book of Records, provided the same be done at his or their own expense & the same be laid out in the common and undivided lands in not more than three lots or Divisions by the Committee for laying out the last Division in said Town."

"I have laid out the said land and taken possession of the same in behalf of the Episcopal society which I hereby affirm I have a right to do by virtue of a Lease of the Rev.d Daniel Barber agent for said Society.

Elijah Dunbar.

* * * * * *

"Attest L. (Lockhart) Willard, Props Clerk."

Mr. Dunbar's grant was not secured to him nor to the Episcopal church or society, no record of its lay-out has been found, and no one knows where it was located. The "Glebe road" to Westmoreland was so called because it ran through or near the Westmoreland glebe, not that of Keene, so far as is known.

No account has been found in the proprietors' records, or in those of the town of Keene, concerning the disposition of those original school lands, nor has the town ever had them in its possession or received any income from them for the benefit of the schools. Apparently they were seized by the proprietors, and finally passed into the hands of private parties. And the same is true of the glebe lands and those granted to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

To return to the ministry lot. Many years after the grant of fifty acres in 1787, when more than one minister had been settled in town, firewood from that lot was given to each of them. It was laid out in the north part of the town, about two miles from the village, on the hills west of Beaver brook. On it was a heavy growth of pine timber, a large part of which was blown down by the

wind storm of 1854. The selectmen sold the wood and timber, and afterwards such trees as were deteriorating, and put the money into the town treasury to be accounted for. At the annual meeting in 1860, the town instructed the selectmen to separate from other moneys the proceeds of the sales from the ministry lot and treat them thereafter as a separate fund.[1] The interest of that fund has since been divided each year among the resident settled ministers in lieu of firewood.

The close of this decade, ending 1860, showed decided progress and many improvements in Keene. Shelly & Sawyer had built a three-story brick block on the east side of the Square, in place of the old Perry & Wheeler store; and, adjoining it, the Cheshire Mills corporation of Harrisville (the sons of Josiah Colony of Keene) had put up a handsome building with an iron front, of smaller dimensions but of the same height, filling the space to the old Lamson building on the corner of Roxbury street; the Cheshire House had been remodelled by Henry Pond, the south wing added, with stores on the ground floor and a hall above 40x76 feet, 17 feet high, and the large stables in the rear built; the Congregational meetinghouse had been moved back four feet to the line of the Wilder building, raised, to give height for the vestry beneath, widened, to give room for two more rows of pews, the steeple remodelled and extended twenty to thirty feet in height, and a new organ placed in the gallery. In January, 1861, it was rededicated, and Rev. John A. Hamilton was ordained as assistant to Rev. Dr. Barstow.

St. James' Episcopal church had been organized, Rev. E. A. Renouf, rector. The incorporators of the parish, under the general laws of New Hampshire, were Thomas B. Kittredge, Wm. P. Wheeler, Samuel Dinsmoor, James Q. Newell, Josiah Colony, Cyrene Johnson, F M. Ballou, Lucius Goodnow, John Bixby, Harry Brownson, M. T. Tottingham, D. H. Sawyer and Joshua D. Colony. Episcopal services had been held in Keene as early as 1816, in the old courthouse, by Rev. Mr. Leonard, of Windsor, Vt., and Rev. Mr. Moss, of Newburyport, Mass. Among the citizens

[1] In 1887, the accumulation of those sales and interest amounted to $4,155.

Upper Main Street and Head of Central Square in 1859.

who aided in those services were Elijah Dunbar, Ithamar Chase and Dr. Thomas Edwards. The burial service of that church was first used in Keene by Rev. Dr. Strong, of Greenfield, Mass., in August, 1817, in the First Congregational church, at the funeral of Hon. Ithamar Chase, and made a deep impression. Occasional services were held afterwards by Rev. Mr. Barber, of West Claremont, and by Rev. Nathaniel Sprague,[1] a native of Keene, son of Hon. Peleg Sprague; and Dr. and Mrs. Edwards were confirmed by Bishop Griswold. Services were held here for several weeks in the summer of 1850 by Rev. Henry N. Hudson, the celebrated Shakesperian scholar, but he was called to another field and it was not until 1858 that they were renewed by the Rt. Rev. Carlton Chase, bishop of New Hampshire, with the result above related. The stone church on West street was built in 1863, Charles E. Parker, architect. The corner stone was laid on the 30th of June with appropriate ceremonies, and the edifice was completed during the following winter and spring, and was used for the first time on Sunday, August 21, 1864.

T. J. French had built the brick house on West street, now the residence of Mrs. Eliza Faulkner, and Henry Pond his residence on the same street, now owned and occupied by his son, Herbert. Chase & Fairbanks had set up their steam mill on Ralston street, and nearly one hundred buildings had been erected in the village within the preceding two or three years.

The Keene Gas Company had been organized—J. H. Carter, president; Solon A. Carter, secretary and treasurer; J. H. Carter, F. A. Faulkner, T. H. Leverett, Edward Gustine, Geo. B. Twitchell, F. M. Ballou and Samuel Woodward, directors. The pipes were laid and a part of the village was lighted by gas for the first time in December, 1859.

The fire department consisted of a chief engineer and four assistants; the Deluge and Neptune fire companies—former names Lion and Tiger—and the Phœnix Hook and Ladder Company.

The Cheshire House was kept by C. H. Brainard, succeeded by E. Holbrook; the Eagle Hotel by Asaph

[1] A memorial window inscribed to him was placed in the church edifice by his sister, Miss Elizabeth Sprague.

Harrington, who kept the house until he died in 1867; the Union Hotel, formerly the Emerald House, by G. A. Goddard, soon succeeded by Ashley Jones. And those were all the public houses in town at that time.

Elliot & Ripley were keeping the hardware store on Elliot's corner; Bridgman & Co. were still in the old Hall store; G. H. Richards, jeweller, on the corner of Roxbury street; J. D. & L. J. Colony in the main part of the Richards building; Shelly & Sawyer in their new block north of them; Parker & Beal, dry goods and clothing, afterwards J. R. Beal & Co., and S. D. Osborne, furniture, were in Pond's block; D. W. Buckminster & Co. were in the old courthouse (now Bullard & Shedd's); S. A. Gerould & Son and G. & G. H. Tilden were in the same stores they had occupied for thirty-five and twenty-five years, respectively; Elbridge G. Whitcomb had bought the Prentiss building and Whitcomb & Dunbar occupied the south store. J. H. Spalter, with a bookstore in Pond's block, formerly Wilders' building, was publishing Adams's arithmetics; E. C. & F. E. Keyes were in their store on the corner of West street; William French was selling groceries, and his brother, T. J., dry goods under the town hall. E. R. Gilmore and Elbridge Clark were in the millinery business, and Reuel Nims kept the store in the old Cooke building, where Lane's upper block now stands. The druggists and apothecaries were O. G. Dort, E. Goddard and Jacob Green; M. T. Tottingham succeeded Wm. S. Briggs in the furniture business, east side of Main, below Church street; O. H. Gillett had followed J. C. & T. New in stoves and tinware; and Geo. O. Leonard made excellent rifles on Winter street, many of which were used in the Civil war. The principal shoe dealers and manufacturers were George Kingsbury, S. L. Randall, Geo. P Drown, David Hutchins, O. P. Hall and W O. Willson; the principal blacksmiths were Wm. H. Brooks and Wm. L. Davis, on Church street, L. P Dean, on Mechanic street, and A. H. Freeman, on the north corner of Marlboro and Main streets; the principal carpenters were D. W. Comstock and H. P Muchmore. John Humphrey made wood-working machinery, and soon afterwards began the manufacture of water wheels; James

Knowlton had a steam planing mill on Davis street; W. H. Wilkinson—succeeded by S. S. Wilkinson—and A. S. Tilden were manufacturers of harnesses and trunks; and carriages were still made on the north corner of Mechanic and Washington streets by A. H. Miller, and by the Frenches on Church street. Chester Allen, S. C. Dustin and J. A. French were taking photographs; Henry Pond dealt in furs and made hats and caps; P. B. Hayward had succeeded Dea. Asa Duren in the bakery; and Laton Martin, the prince of horsemen, kept an excellent livery stable in rear of the Eagle Hotel for many years, and afterwards north of the present City Hotel. Thomas Hale & Co. were publishing the Sentinel in the Whitcomb block, and Horatio Kimball, the Cheshire Republican in Pond's block. The physicians in town were Geo. B. Twitchell, Thomas B. Kittredge, J. J. Johnson, Wm. H. Thayer, Wm. B. Chamberlain, homeopathic, and J. F. Jennison, botanic and eclectic; and Dr. Jacob H. Gallinger, now United States senator, was here for a short time a little later. The lawyers were Thomas M. Edwards (in congress), Levi Chamberlain, Wheeler & Faulkner, F. F. Lane, C. C. Webster, Harvey Carleton, Edward Farrar and Silas Hardy.

At South Keene, manufactures were flourishing and profitable; Edward Joslin had built and then occupied the two-story house east of the factory; the mechanics were a bright, intelligent class, and a lively debating club was sustained by them and the villagers.

The Cheshire County Agricultural Society continued its yearly exhibits. The former building on the fair grounds for manufactures, produce and fancy articles had been replaced by "Floral Hall," 200 feet long, and other improvements made, and the displays of stock and other exhibits were remarkable. Distinguished men were employed as speakers, and upwards of 6,000 tickets of admission were sold on favorable days; and the interest continued through the Civil war.

Another organization that was of much importance to Keene was the Cheshire County Musical Institute. Its object was the improvement of music in the churches. As early as 1826 and 1827, conventions for that purpose were held in Keene, and the music of the Handel and Haydn

Society's collection was used. In 1849, the subject was revived and B. F. Baker, of Boston, and I. B. Woodbury, of New York, conducted conventions in the town hall. Those yearly conventions became permanent in 1852, and soon afterwards developed into the institute, with Rev. Dr. Barstow, president, conducted in different years by Osgood Collester and Edward Hamilton, of Worcester, B. F. Baker, E. H. Frost, L. O. Emerson and Carl Zerahn, of Boston, and Wm. B. Bradbury and Geo. F. Root, of New York. Mrs. J. H. Long and other professional singers were employed as soloists, and brilliant concerts were given at the close of each session. The chorus sometimes numbered as high as 600. Its sessions continued through the Civil war and for many years afterwards.

The census of 1860 gave Keene a population of 4,320, three of whom were colored. The state had 326,072.

The fifteen highest taxpayers in town that year were C. S. Faulkner, Cheshire Provident Institution, Josiah Colony, estate of John Towns, Henry Pond, J. A. Fay & Co., Charles Lamson, John Elliot, Samuel Dinsmoor, S. A. Gerould & Son, Keziah Appleton, J. H. Elliot, Thomas M. Edwards, J. B. Elliot, and the Ashuelot bank.

The threatenings of internecine strife in the nation were distinctly seen and heard, but they were generally believed to be the mere blusterings of the slave power and there was little fear of real war; nevertheless the excitement of the presidential campaign in 1860 was intense and the spirit of loyalty was thoroughly aroused in the North. At the election in November, Keene cast 635 votes for the Lincoln electors to 224 for the Douglass, 31 for the Breckenridge and 5 for the Bell tickets.

The following paragraph was written from Keene about this time by a correspondent of the Christian Freeman: "Nearly in the middle of the county, on a broad plain where once was the bottom of a lake, surrounded by hills, is the smart and beautiful village of Keene. Its broad, straight, well made streets and sidewalks; its many large and ornamental trees; its elegant dwelling houses and fine gardens; its convenient 'Square' and miniature park render it absolutely the handsomest village of the size in the Eastern States."

CHAPTER XVIII.

KEENE IN THE CIVIL WAR.

1861—1865.

On the 4th of April, 1861, Dr. Thomas E. Hatch was appointed postmaster at Keene under the administration of President Lincoln, vice Joshua D. Colony. Albert Godfrey was the choice of the citizens, as expressed by a vote of 189 to 62, but Dr. Hatch was appointed through the influence of his uncle, Hon. Thomas M. Edwards, member of congress. Personally Dr. Hatch was acceptable to the people, but his appointment in opposition to the choice of the citizens caused much ill feeling.

During the early months of 1861, alarming reports of the acts of the disunionists were daily received. One after another the Southern states passed the "Ordinance of Secession," and a Southern confederacy was formed. Officers of the army and navy were throwing off their allegiance and espousing the cause of the South. Armed forces were organizing and drilling throughout the Southern states. A majority of the cabinet of President Buchanan was secessionist, and arms, forts, arsenals and other war material, besides public funds and other property belonging to the government, were seized, to be used in active rebellion. The forts in the harbor at Charleston, S. C., held by a small force of United States troops, were demanded and threatened with forcible capture if the demand was refused. The life of the president-elect was known to be in peril, but the designs of the assassins were frustrated and Mr. Lincoln reached Washington and was inaugurated on the 4th of March.

On the 12th of April, 1861, Fort Sumpter was attacked by the secessionists, and after a gallant defence was surrendered with the honors of war. The telegraph flashed the tidings to every part of the Union and the most intense excitement was aroused. Public meetings were hastily

called in every place of importance throughout the North to give expression to public sentiment. The city of Washington and the archives of the government were in imminent danger of capture by the rebel forces. On the 15th, President Lincoln issued his proclamation calling for 75,000 militia, for three months, for the defence of the government, and convening both houses of congress in extra session. On the 16th, Governor Gilmore issued his call for a regiment of volunteers from New Hampshire, in compliance with the request of the president, and Keene was made one of the recruiting stations.

On the afternoon of Friday, the 19th, handbills signed by leading men of both parties were circulated in Keene and the adjacent towns calling on the people of Cheshire county to assemble at Keene on Monday, the 22d, to take action on the national crisis. That mass meeting was held in Central square at 1 o'clock on the day named. Hon. Levi Chamberlain—one of the three commissioners from New Hampshire, recently returned from the "Peace Congress" at Washington—called the meeting to order, and Ex-Governor Samuel Dinsmoor, a Democrat, was chosen president, with seven leading men of the county, three of whom were also Democrats, vice presidents. Governor Dinsmoor took the chair and made a short patriotic speech in which he said: "Amid the general gloom which pervades the community there is yet one cause for congratulation—that we at least see a united North." General James Wilson was at home from California on a visit and Governor Dinsmoor introduced him to the multitude. Both gentlemen wore rosettes of the national colors, and each as he came forward was received with enthusiastic applause. Gen. Wilson made one of his old-time rousing speeches. He was intensely patriotic, and though too far advanced in years and too feeble to take the field himself, his eloquence roused the patriotism of the younger men. He was followed by others, several of whom offered their services on the spot. Col. Tileston A. Barker, of Westmoreland, a Democrat, offered to lead a company to the front; and such a company was immediately organized, with full ranks—named the Cheshire Light Guards—and

was ready to march within three days. Hon. Levi Chamberlain presented a paper already signed by twenty-three citizens, pledging $100 each to aid the families of those who would volunteer in case the town did not make an appropriation for that purpose, and the list was rapidly increased.

The same evening a meeting of the citizens of Keene was held in the town hall to encourage enlistments and to take further action towards aiding the families of volunteers, followed the next evening by another meeting for the same purpose. During this second meeting Lieut. Henry C. Handerson, who had been appointed recruiting officer at Keene, marched into the hall with a company of recruits; and they were received with rousing cheers. That company, sixty-seven strong, left for Concord on Thursday, the 25th, and was assigned to the First regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, organized at Concord. The route then was by cars via Fitchburg, Groton Junction and Nashua, and a crowd of people assembled at the station to bid them Godspeed. Rev. Dr. Barstow offered a prayer, and an agent of the New Hampshire Bible Society gave each volunteer a testament.

The excitement continued through the summer and fall, and frequent meetings were held, several of them being mass meetings on the Square. The same enthusiasm prevailed throughout the North. Legislatures were called together and regiments of volunteers were rapidly organized in all the states. Troops from Massachusetts, New York and other states were promptly on the ground to defend the capital and other points. The number of troops called for by President Lincoln had volunteered within ten days, and the quotas of the states were more than filled. During that season of 1861, besides a battalion of cavalry, a light battery of six rifled brass pieces—155 men—and three companies of sharpshooters, New Hampshire organized and put into the field seven regiments of infantry; and the eighth left the state in the winter following—in all nearly 9,000 men.

On the 6th of May, Capt. Barker's company of seventy-nine men and a third company of recruits of sixty-two

men left Keene for Portsmouth amid the cheers of a large concourse of people. Thus far all had enlisted for three months only, under the first call of the president, but these two companies, and others from other places, were accepted by the governor and sent to Portsmouth with the expectation that more troops would be needed; and the call soon came for another regiment from New Hampshire, to serve for three years or the war. Those who had enlisted for three months were given the first opportunity to serve in the longer term, and about one-half of the 1,000 volunteers then present at Portsmouth immediately reënlisted for three years or the war. They were assigned to the Second regiment and given a short furlough to prepare for their long absence. A large proportion of Capt. Barker's men reënlisted, and the company came home in a body.

There were no funds in the state treasury to meet these extraordinary expenditures, but the banks, the citizens and Gov. Goodwin himself became responsible for the money borrowed for the emergency. Two banks in Concord offered a loan of $50,000, and the three banks in Keene offered $10,000 each; and a little later, citizens of Keene subscribed for $25,450 of the loan of $150,000,000 negotiated by the government. Tuesday evening, May 28, a large meeting was held at the town hall to take further measures for providing for the families of volunteers. The sum of $5,000 had been subscribed on the paper already mentioned, but it was desired to secure appropriations from the town and legislation by the state for that purpose.

The women immediately began work in aid of the soldiers, furnishing underclothing, bandages, lint, and everything that might be needed by troops in the field or in the hospitals. The women of Keene held their first meeting for that purpose on the 6th of May at the house of Rev. E. A. Renouf. It was then decided to hold a meeting the next day at the town hall, and a large attendance was secured. At first packages were forwarded to Concord, where a state organization called the Soldiers' Aid Society had already been formed. Early in June the Cheshire County Soldiers' Aid Society, a branch of the state

society, was organized in Keene, and the women of Keene, who were its officers and managers, acted under that organization. Correspondence and coöperation were established with societies in each town in the county, and their packages were sent to Keene, and later all the contributions were forwarded direct from Keene to the agency of the National Sanitary Commission. Nearly every woman in Cheshire county was a member of the Soldiers' Aid Society. There was also a Juvenile Soldiers' Aid Society in Keene. This county organization continued with unabated zeal all through the war, held weekly meetings, received and forwarded large amounts in contributions—from the town societies and from individuals, churches and other organizations—and accomplished a vast amount of excellent work in aid of the sanitary and Christian commissions. It had for presidents, Mrs. Thomas M. Edwards, Mrs. Thomas B. Kittredge, Mrs. Samuel Dinsmoor and Mrs. Thomas H. Leverett; for treasurers, Miss Loretta Boies, Miss Margaret R. Lamson and Miss Katherine Wheeler; for secretaries, Miss Susanna Thompson, Miss Katherine F. Wheeler and Mrs. Mary D. Smith; with Miss Mary W. Hale, corresponding secretary in the earlier part of the war. It was under the supervision of a board of eleven directors—of which the officers were members—selected from the several religious societies in town, and an assistant committee of men consisting of Hon. Samuel Dinsmoor, William P. Abbott, Caleb Carpenter, Sumner Wheeler and William P. Wheeler. At the close of the war, in 1865, the funds remaining in its treasury were used to aid the families of those soldiers who had lost their lives in the war. The organization was continued until 1871, when it did its last work to aid the sufferers by the great fire in Chicago. During the last two years of the war there was a Cheshire County Christian Commission, a branch of the national, with headquarters at Keene; and there was a Union League Club in Keene which held regular meetings every week.

The New Hampshire legislature assembled on the 5th of June. Hon. Levi Chamberlain of Keene presented a series of resolutions pledging the resources of the state "for

the integrity of the Union," and declaring, "That the duty of the General Government to suppress all attempts to dissolve the Union, is imperative, and cannot be evaded," which passed without a dissenting vote.[1] On the 24th a bill passed the house—169 to 94—and became a law, appropriating $1,000,000 and placing it in the hands of the governor and council to be used for fitting out troops and sending them into the field, and the immediate organization of three regiments was authorized.

FIRST REGIMENT.

The First regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers was organized by the appointment of Hon. Mason W Tappan of Bradford, ex-member of congress, colonel; Thomas Whipple, Esq. of Laconia, a veteran of the Mexican war, lieutenant colonel; and Aaron F. Stevens, Esq., of Nashua, major. Rev. Stephen G. Abbott of Bradford, after the war a citizen of Keene, was appointed chaplain. The volunteers from Keene were all in Company G, of which Horace T. H. Pierce was first lieutenant. Leaving Concord on the 27th of May, by the Worcester and Norwich route, the regiment reached New York on Sunday morning, where it was given a hearty reception, and proceeded thence through Baltimore to Washington. It was generously and even lavishly furnished with impedimenta by the state—provided with a military band of twenty-five enlisted musicians; sixteen four-horse baggage wagons, all new, with selected horses and harnesses made specially for military service, each company having one wagon to carry its ponderous cooking range and other baggage. A New York paper in giving an account of the passage of this regiment through the city said: "Accompanying the troops were one hundred and sixteen horses, sixteen baggage wagons, containing tents and provisions for thirty days, and one hospital wagon. There were also in attendance sixteen

[1] Although large numbers of Democrats rallied loyally to the support of the government, the Democratic party was not unanimous in adopting a patriotic course, as is shown by the vote above stated. The New York Herald, Boston Courier, New Hampshire Patriot, Cheshire Republican, and other Democratic papers and some of the leading men of that party, were in active opposition to the administration, and soon became bitter and virulent. At first those leaders were followed by a small minority of their party, but with the inevitable opportunities for complaint of the management of those momentous public affairs their numbers increased until they formed a majority of the Democrats in the country.

nurses, who took dinner at the Astor House." On its arrival in Washington it was reviewed by President Lincoln, who complimented it as the best appointed regiment that had yet appeared at the capital. Its uniform, however, furnished by the state, was of grey satinet of poor quality. After encamping for a few days near Washington the regiment joined the forces under Col. Charles P. Stone of the regular army, marched to Rockville, Md., and thence to Poolsville and was employed in guarding the crossings of the Potomac river. On the 7th of July, 1861, it marched via Sharpsburg to Williamsport, forded the river into Virginia, and joined Gen. Patterson's division. After a movement towards Winchester and a retreat to Charlestown, the division marched to Harper's Ferry, and the First New Hampshire recrossed the river and encamped at Sandy Hook. On the 2d of August its term expired, and the regiment returned to New Hampshire and was mustered out of service. Many of its officers and men afterwards joined other organizations and did good service in the war.

The names of the men from Keene are given below, with a brief record of their service. All were members of Company G. It is to be understood that they were privates and residents of Keene unless otherwise stated.[1]

Austin, Charles F Age 21; enl. April 21; must. out Aug. 9. See Second N. H. V.

Bradford, Alonzo B. Age 21; enl. June 12; must. out Aug. 9. (Alonzo S. Brentford of Ayling's Register is doubtless the same person.)

Colburn, Eleazer. Age 21; enl. April 21; must. out Aug. 9. See Ninth N. H. V.

Cross, Charles R. Age 23; enl. April 19; must. out Aug. 9. See miscel. org.

Dinonie, Octave. Age 22; enl. April 23; must. out Aug. 9.

Drummer, Charles H. Age 22; enl. April 19; app. 2d lieut. April 30; must. out Aug. 9. See Fourth N. H. V. and U. S. navy.

[1] The abbreviations used in the tabular records are as follows:

Adjt.....adjutant.	Dept.....department.	Musc.....musician.
Aft.....after.	Dis.....disease.	Must.....mustered.
App.....appointed.	Disab.....disability.	Non-com..non-commis'nd.
Art.....artillery.	Disch.....discharged.	Org.....organizations.
B. (b.).....born.	Enl.....enlisted.	Priv.....private.
Bvt.....brevet.	Exp.....expired.	Prom.....promoted.
Capt.....captain.	Exch.....exchanged.	Q. M.....quartermaster.
Captd.....captured.	H.....heavy.	Reenl.....reenlisted.
Cav.....cavalry.	Hosp.....hospital.	Res.....residence.
Co.....company.	I. C.....Invalid corps.	Sergt.....sergeant.
Col.....colonel.	Inf.....infantry.	Sev.....severely.
Com.....commissary.	L.....light.	Surg.....surgeon.
Com.....commission.	Lt. and lieut.....lieutenant.	Transf.....transferred.
Com'd.....commissioned.	Maj.....major.	V.R.C..Vet. Reserve corps.
Corp.....corporal.	Miss.....missing.	Wd.....wounded.
Cred.....credited to.	Miscel.....miscellaneous.	Wds.....wounds.

Farwell, Artemas. Age 25; enl. April 22; app. sergt. July 12; must. out Aug. 9.

Gorman, Michael. Age 25; enl. April 19; must. out Aug. 9. See Fourteenth N. H. V.

Joslin, Horace. Age 25; enl. April 24; app. corp. July 12; must. out Aug. 9. See Third N. H. V.

Marsh, George W. Age 26; enl. April 19; must. out Aug. 9. See Sixth N. H. V.

Pierce, Horace T. H. Age 37; enl. April 22; app. 1st lieut. April 30; must. out Aug. 9. See Fifth N. H. V.

Quinn, Samuel S. Age 21; res. Swanzey, after the war, Keene; enl. April 21; app. sergt. May 1; must. out Aug. 9. See Fifth N. H. V.

Ruffle, Josiah. Age 19; enl. April 24; deserted. See Second N. H. V.

Ruffle, Samuel H. Age 32; enl. April 24; must. out Aug. 9. See Second N. H. V.

Rines, George W. Age 23; enl. April 22; must. out Aug. 9. See miscel. org.

Ross, Washington B. Age 20; enl. April 24; must. out Aug. 9.

Russell, Alonzo B. Age 24; enl. April 22; must. out Aug. 9.

Russell, George F. Age 27; enl. April 19; must. out Aug. 9.

Slyfield, Andrew. Age 23; enl. April 23; must. out Aug. 9.

Stay, Charles. Age 21; res. Alstead, after the war, Keene; enl. April 22; must. out Aug. 9.

Steck, Friedrick. Age 29; enl. April 23; must. out Aug. 9. See Fourteenth N. H. V.

Streeter, Charles H. Age 18; enl. April 20; must. out Aug. 9. See Second N. H. V.; res. Troy, after the war, Keene.

Towns, Charles E. Age 22; enl. April 22; must. out Aug. 9. See Ninth N. H. V.

Waite, John H. Age 21; enl. April 22; must. out Aug. 9. See Fifth N. H. V.

SECOND REGIMENT.

The Second regiment was organized at Portsmouth early in May—first for three months' service, with Thomas P Pierce of Manchester, a veteran of the Mexican war, colonel. But the government declined to take any more volunteers for the short term and the regiment was immediately reorganized with Gilman Marston, of Exeter, then member of congress from the first New Hampshire district, colonel, Frank S. Fiske, of Keene, lieutenant colonel, and Josiah Stevens, Jr., of Concord, major. Rev. Henry E. Parker, of Concord, a native of Keene, was appointed chaplain. Capt. Barker's company, from Cheshire county, was given the first place (Company A.) with Henry N. Metcalf, of Keene, first lieutenant, and Herbert B. Titus, of Chesterfield, second lieutenant. Company B was from Concord, with S. G. Griffin, of that city—formerly of Nelson; after the war, of Keene—captain. The uniform of

this regiment, as well as that of the First, was of grey satinet, but it soon gave place to the United States army blue. The Second was mustered into the United States service early in June, 1861, and on the 20th of that month, with 1,022 officers and men, left Portsmouth for Washington, via Boston and New York. Governor Berry and his staff, ex-Governor Goodwin and many leading men of the state accompanied the regiment to Boston, where it was received with enthusiastic demonstrations. Immense crowds of people thronged the streets. An organization of fourteen hundred Sons of New Hampshire, accompanied by Governor Andrew and his staff and many prominent citizens, with military bands, escorted the regiment and its guests to the Music Hall, where a banquet had been prepared. At the close of the banquet, Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, a native of Rindge, president of the Sons of New Hampshire, made a short, patriotic address, and Governor Andrew reviewed the regiment on the common. Proceeding by railroad via Fall River and the steamer Bay State, it reached New York the next morning and received a similar ovation. And this was the manner in which all the earlier regiments were received in the northern cities as they proceeded to the front. From New York the Second was sent by the way of Harrisburg, passing through Baltimore, and reaching Washington on the 23d and encamping about one mile north of the White House.

The Second was brigaded under Col. A. E. Burnside, with the First and Second Rhode Island Volunteers, the Rhode Island volunteer battery and the Seventy-first New York Volunteers, and at the first battle of Bull Run was sharply engaged, losing nine men killed, thirty-five wounded —four of them mortally—and sixty-three taken prisoners. Col. Marston was among the wounded, and Lt. Col. Fiske succeeded to the command of the regiment. After that battle the Second was assigned to the brigade of Gen. Joseph Hooker and encamped at Bladensburg, Md. In October, Hooker's command was increased to a division and moved down the left bank of the Potomac to prevent a blockade of that river, and went into winter quarters at Budd's Ferry.

Early in April, 1862, Hooker's division joined the Army of the Potomac at Fortress Monroe, and was present at the siege of Yorktown. At the battle of Williamsburg the regiment lost sixteen killed, sixty-six wounded and twenty-three missing. Among the killed were Edward N. Taft and Nathaniel Lane of Keene. The Second shared in McClellan's campaign on the peninsula, with its "seven days' fight," and the depressing effects of those disasters. Returning with the army to Alexandria in August, the Second was engaged in the second battle of Bull Run and suffered heavy loss—thirty-eight killed and mortally wounded, and more than 100 wounded and missing, or about forty per cent of its whole number engaged. During that autumn, while the main army was on its Maryland campaign, the Second was attached to Sickles's division of Banks's command, which held the defences of Washington, and was encamped on the Virginia side of the Potomac. In November, Sickles's division rejoined the Army of the Potomac, then under Burnside, and the regiment was present at the battle of Fredericksburg, Dec 13, but was not actively engaged. Towards the last of February, 1863, it was ordered home "to recruit" (just before election) and was received with demonstrations similar to those made when it left the state. The men were furloughed, and they visited their families. The Seventeenth regiment was then organizing at Concord, and the government, not desiring another regiment from New Hampshire at that time, ordered the consolidation of the Seventeenth with the Second.

On the 25th of May, 1863, the Second again started for the front, with replenished ranks and with the regimental band of the Seventeenth, also transferred. Col. Marston had been promoted to brigadier general, and Capt. Edward L. Bailey, who had been raised to major and lieutenant colonel, was advanced to colonel. The regiment rejoined the Army of the Potomac at Rappahannock Station on the 13th of June, in time to take part in the retreat into Maryland, and was assigned to the Third brigade of Humphrey's division, Sickles's Third army corps. That corps reached Emmettsburg, Pa., on the 1st of July,

while the First and Eleventh corps were holding the enemy in check at Gettysburg, twelve miles distant. Gen. Sickles moved forward with a part of his corps that afternoon. The remainder, with which was the Second New Hampshire, started for the battlefield at 3 o'clock on the morning of the 2d, without waiting for coffee, but halted on the road to make it, and joined the advance column at 9 o'clock. There was quiet for about three hours, and the tired troops rested. Lee, under cover of woods along the Emmettsburg road, was massing a heavy column against the Union left, now held by Sickles's corps. After some changes of position the Second was placed in Sherfey's famous peach orchard, supporting Ames's battery, an exposed position where it did gallant service and lost heavily in killed and wounded. The Compte de Paris, in his "Histoire de la Guerre Civile en Amerique," characterizes the fight in that peach orchard as "murderous." Out of 354 officers and men of the Second who went into the battle the loss officially reported was 193, or more than one-half. Three commissioned officers were killed, eighteen wounded—four mortally—and but three out of twenty-four escaped unhurt. Seventeen enlisted men were killed, 119 wounded and thirty-six missing. Of the men from Keene, Capt. Henry N. Metcalf, and Private William H. Spring were killed; Sergeants Samuel F. Holbrook and Albert R. Walker, and Privates John A. Blake, Cornelius Cleary and Benjamin F. Ruffle were wounded—Blake, Cleary and Walker severely—and William C. Drummer was missing, probably killed, as there is no further record of him. The regiment was not actually engaged on the 3d and last day of the battle and suffered no loss.

After the battle the Second marched with the army in pursuit, via Frederic, Antietam battlefield and Harper's Ferry to Warrenton, and thence to Washington; and spent the winter at Point Lookout, Md., with the Fifth and Twelfth New Hampshire Volunteers, guarding a camp of prisoners. Gen. Marston was in command of the camp. Early in April, 1864, the Second and Twelfth regiments, having been recruited from the drafted men and substitutes sent from New Hampshire, joined the Army of the James,

were assigned to Weitzel's division of Smith's Eighteenth corps, and encamped at Bermuda Hundreds. Towards the last of May that corps was transferred to the Army of the Potomac, joined Gen. Grant at Cold Harbor and took part in the battle of the 3d of June, suffering heavy loss. The three years' term of the original members expired on the 8th, and twenty-eight commissioned officers—including all the field and staff except Adjutant John D. Cooper—and 199 enlisted men returned to New Hampshire and were mustered out. Sixty-six of the original members and thirty-two of the early recruits had reënlisted for three years or the war, and those, with the later recruits, drafted men and substitutes, with four commissioned officers, now composed the regiment of about 250 men. Of those only thirteen were from Keene.

Capt. J. N. Patterson was promoted to lieutenant colonel and took command of the regiment, with Adjutant Cooper promoted to major. The Second remained with the army during the siege of Petersburg, most of the time engaged in guard and provost duty. At the final breaking of the lines and capture of Petersburg and Richmond, April 2, 1865, it was on the north side of the James and was not actively engaged, but was among the first to enter Richmond, without opposition; and it encamped for about three months near the city. On the 21st of June, the Tenth, Twelfth and Thirteenth New Hampshire Volunteers were mustered out of service, and the men of those regiments whose terms had not expired were transferred to the Second, raising its numbers to about 900 men. The regiment was retained through the summer for guard and provost duty in eastern Virginia, and early in December was sent to City Point and mustered out of service. Upon arriving at Concord it received, as did all the regiments returning to New Hampshire, a hearty and generous reception.

Below are given the names and brief records of the men from Keene. It is to be understood that they are privates and residents of Keene unless otherwise stated.

Alexander, Lucian A. Band; age 28; enl. July 22, '61; must. Aug. 7, '61, as first class musc.; disch. April 1, '62.

Atherton, Sanford A. Co. A; age 22; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; must. as corp.; app. sergt.; disch. disab. Sept. 12, '62.

Atwood, Rufus. Co. A; aged 31; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; must. as corp.; app. sergt.; died, disease, at Keene, Jan. 23, '64.

Austin, Charles F. Co. A; aged 21; enl. Sept. 12, '61; wd. June 9, '64, at Cold Harbor; disch. Sept. 14, '64. See First N. H. Vols.

Beliveau, Frank A. Band; age 23; enl. Sept. 4, '61; must. as second class musc.; disch. Aug. 8, '62, near Harrison's Landing, Va.

Blake, Charles H. Co. A; age 30; enl. May 22, '61; disch. disab. Nov. 17, '62.

Blake, John A. Co. A; age 20; res. Gilsum (b., and ret. to live in Keene); enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; captd. June 30, '62, at White Oak Swamp, Va.; wd. severely July 2, '63, Gettysburg; disch. disab. June 7, '64.

Bolster, Almon. Band; age 34; enl. July 22, '61; must. Aug. 7, '61, as leader; reduced to first class, then to third class musc.; disch., services not needed, Jan. 20, '62.

Bowen, Frederick A. Band; age 26; enl. July 22, '61, as second class musc.; must. out, Aug. 8, '62, near Harrison's Landing, Va.

Bridge, Stary W. Co. I; age 21; b. Keene; res. Gilsum; enl. Sept. 5, '61; disch. Sept. 14, '64, term exp.

Califf, Jonathan. Co. A; age 44; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; wd. accidentally by sentinel; died of wds. Aug. 14, '61, Washington, D. C.

Califf, William W. Co. A; age 18; enl. April 30, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61; disch. disab. Jan. 27, '63.

Capron, J. Foster, Co. A; age 24; b. Keene; res. Troy; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; disch. disab. Oct. 22, '61, Washington, D. C.

Carroll, Philip S. Co. H; age 23; enl. Sept. 3, '61; disch. disab. May 16, '63.

Clark, Milton W. Co. A; age 41; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; must. as sergt., May 31, '61; disch. disab. May 31, '63.

Cleary, Cornelius. Co. H; age 35; enl. Aug. 27, '61; wd. sev. July 2, '63, at Gettysburg; died of wds. Aug. 1, '63, Washington, D. C.

Cobb, Fred W. Co. A; age 23; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; must. as 1st sergt.; app. 2d lieut. Sept. 1, '61; prom. 1st lieut. July 1, '62; resign. Aug. 31, '62.

Converse, Granville S. Co. I; age 18; enl. April 28, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 21, '61, for 3 yrs.; must. out June 21, '64.

Craig, Allen A. Co. A; b. Canada; cred. Keene; age 41; enl. Aug. 16, '62; disch. disab. May 30, '63. See Fourteenth N. H. V.

Darling, John G. Co. A; age 21; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; wd. May 5, '62, Williamsburg, Va.; disch. wds. July 25, '62; died Keene, 1864.

Davis, James. Co. A; age 19; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; died, disease, Jan. 9, '63, Philadelphia.

Davis, Nathaniel D. Co. A; b. Keene; res. Winchester; age 29; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; disch. disab. Feb. 4, '63; died June 4, '63, Winchester.

Drummer, John A. Co. A; age 20; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; died, disease, Dec. 9, '61, in Maryland.

Drummer, William C. Co. F; age 17; enl. Sept. 6, '61; wd. and miss. July 2, '63, Gettysburg; no further record.

Dunlap, Whitney. Co. K; age 31; enl. Aug. 31, '61; disch. disab. July 9, '63. See V. R. C.

Eastman, William. Co. H; age 43; enl. Sept. 12, '61; disch. disab. Sept. 20, '62; after service in V. R. C.

Eaton, Orleans S. Co. A; age 28; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; disch. disab. April 27, '63.

Ellis, David C. Co. H; b. Richmond; age 33; res. Keene; enl. Sept. 14, '61; desert. Feb. 1, '63; returned June 15, '64; disch. April 4, '65, at Richmond, Va.

Emerson, Albert A. Co. H; b. Keene; age 23; res. Somersworth; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 27, '61, for 3 yrs.; must. as sergt.; disch. disab. Aug. 1, '61.

Fiske, Frank S. Field and staff; age 35; app. lt. col. April 30, '61; must. in June 10, '61; resign. Oct. 23, '62; bvt. col. and brig. gen. U. S. V., to date March 13, '65, for gallant and meritorious service.

Gilbert, Charles N. Co. H; age 29; enl. Sept. 14, '61; disch. disab. March 15, '62.

Gleason, Aaron R. Co. F; res. Gilsum, after the war, Keene; age 27; enl. Sept. 9, '61; transf. to Co. 101, 2d battal. I. C., Jan. 5, '64; prom. to act. asst. surg. U. S. A.; app. asst. surg. Fourteenth N. H. Vols., May 11, '64; declined appt.; served by contract as act. asst. surg. U. S. A. (civil appt.) from May 18, '64, to July 22, '65.

Gregory, William H. Co. A; age 39; enl. Sept. 2, '61; disch. disab. Sept. 25, '61.

Griffin, Simon G. Co. B; age 37; volunteered as private in April '61; recruiting officer, May '61; app. capt. June 4, '61, must. to date June 1, '61; resigned to accept promotion. See Sixth N. H. V. and miscel. org.

Hadley, Ethan. Band; age 33; enl. July 22, '61; must. as first class musc.; must. out second class musc. Aug. 8, '62, near Harrison's Landing, Va.

Heaton, George S. Co. A; age 20; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; captd. July 21, '61, first Bull Run, Va.; paroled Jan. 17, '62; disch. disab. Aug. 15, '62. See V. R. C.

Hodgkins, William H. Co. A; age 28; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; died, dis. July 21, '62, Harrison's Landing, Va.

Holbrook, Samuel F. Co. A; age 21; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; app. corp. Jan. 1, '63; wd. July 2, '63, Gettysburg; app. sergt. July 2, '63; reenl. Jan. 1, '64, as private, cred. to Walpole; app. lieut. June 24, '64; app. capt. Co. G, April 1, '65; must. out Dec. 19, '65.

Holden, Jonathan M. Co. A; age 25; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; disch. disab. Aug. 19, '61, Washington, D. C.

Holton, Henry. Co. A; age 27; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; must. May 31, '61, as musc.; died, dis. March 19, '63, at Keene.

Howe, Lucius T. Co. A; age 22; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; app. corp.; disch. disab. May 31, '62, White Oak Swamp, Va.

Hurd, Warren H. Co. A; age 18; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; captd. June 30, '62, White Oak Swamp, Va.; exchanged; app. corp. Jan. 1, '63; disch. Dec. 22, '63, to accept promotion; afterwards lieut. and capt. U. S. colored troops.

Jackson, George A. Co. C; b. Keene; res. Windham; age 21; enl. for 9 mos.; transf. from Seventeenth N. H. April 16, '63; must. out Oct. 9, '63.

Johnson, Henry H. Co. A; age 22; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; app. corp. May 31, '61; disch. disab. July 29, '61, at Washington, D. C.

Lane, Nathaniel F. Co. A; age 22; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; killed May 5, '62, at Williamsburg, Va.

Lanphere, Orlando M. Co. A; age 20; enl. Aug. 19, '61; disch. Aug. 24, '64, at Concord.

Marsh, Henry H. Co. A; age 20; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; must. out June 21, '64.

Metcalf, Henry N. Co. A; age 28; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; must. in as 1st lt.; transf. to Co. F. Nov. 1, '61; app. capt. Aug. 13, '62; killed, July 2, '63, Gettysburg.

Nash, Frank. Co. A; age 19; enl. April 29, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; disch. disab. Feb. 7, '63, Falmouth, Va.

Noyes, Samuel L. Band; age 24; enl. July 25, '61; must. as third class musc.; must. out Aug. 8, '62, near Harrison's Landing, Va.

O'Brien, Cornelius. Co. A; age 16; enl. Aug. 28, '61; disch. Aug. 24, '64, near Petersburg, Va., term exp.

Parker, Henry E. Field and staff; b. in Keene; res. Concord; age 40; app. chaplain, June 10, '61; disch. Aug. 5, '62.

Parker, William H. Co. H; age 16; enl. June 19, '61; must. as musc.; disch. Aug. 28, '61, Bladensburg, Md. See Fourteenth N. H. Vols. and miscel. org.

Phelps, George W. Co. E; enl. Sept. 4, '61; app. corp. Nov. 1, '61; wd. Aug. 29, '62, second Bull Run; disch. disab. June 4, '63, at Concord.

Pratt, Edwin P. Band; age 21; enl. July 22, '61; must. as third class musc.; must. out Aug. 8, '62, near Harrison's Landing, Va. See First N. H. Cav.

Preckle, William H. Co. A; age 21; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; wd. sev. Aug. 29, '62, at second Bull Run; disch. wds. Feb. 3, '63, Washington, D. C.

Pressler, Christian. Co. A; age 30; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; app. sergt. May 31, '61; app. 1st sergt. July 1, '62; disch. disab. Dec. 13, '62, Washington, D. C. See V. R. C.

Rahn, William J. Co. I; age 33; enl. May 9, '61; app. commis. sergt. June 8, '62; must. out June 21, '64.

Richardson, James F. Co. G; age 19; b. Keene; res. Nelson; enl. Aug. 23, '61; disch. Aug. 23, '64, near Petersburg, Va.; term exp.

Richardson, Samuel C. Co. K; age 36; enl. Aug. 31, '61; disch. disab. Oct. 26, '62, Washington, D. C. Formerly in state service.

Ruffle, Benjamin F. Co. A; age 23; enl. April 26, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; wd. July 2, '63, Gettysburg; reenl. Feb. 19, '64; app. sergt. July 1, '64; must. out Dec. 19, '65.

Ruffle, Charles. Co. H; age 32; enl. Sept. 3, '61; reenl. Feb. 19, '64; app. corp. July 1, '64; must. out Dec. 19, '65.

Ruffle, George. Co. A; age 29; b. Keene; res. Stoddard; enl. Aug. 8, '61; wd. Aug. 29, '62, second Bull Run; disch. disab. May 30, '63, Concord.

Ruffle, Josiah. Co. A; age 19; enl. Aug. 9, '61; transf. to Co. K, Fourth U. S. Art. Nov. 1, '62; reenl. Feb. 11, '64; disch. Feb. 11, '67, Fort Delaware, term exp. See First N. H. Vols.

Ruffle, Samuel. Co. H; age 32; enl. Jan. 22, '62; died, dis. Aug. 15, '62, David's Island, N. Y. harbor. See First N. H. Vols.

Salter, Antoine. Co. H; age 23; enl. Sept. 5, '61; captd. June 30, '62, White Oak Swamp, Va.; died, dis. Aug. 7, '62, near Richmond, Va.

Sherwin, Horace E. Co. A; age 20; enl. May 6, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; must. out June 21, '64.

Southworth, Orlin R. Co. A; age 22; enl. Aug. 19, '61; disch. Aug. 24, '64, near Petersburg, Va., term exp.

Spaulding, Milan D. Co. C; age 19; res. Sullivan; enl. Sept. 10, '61; app. sergt.; reenl. Jan. 1, '64, cred. Keene; app. 1st sergt. July 1, '64, app. 1st lieut. Nov. 4, '64; disch. May 11, '65.

Spring, Joseph W. Band; age 29; enl. July 22, '61, as first class musc.; must. out Aug. 8, '62, Harrison's Landing, Va.

Spring, William H. Co. A; age 19; enl. April 30, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; killed July 2, '63, Gettysburg.

Stevens, Edward R. Co. K; age 31; res. Concord; cred. Keene; enl. Dec. 3, '63; wd. June 1, '64, Cold Harbor; disch. disab. June 10, '65.

Streeter, Charles H. Co. C; age 18; res. Troy, after the war, Keene; enl. Sept. 5, '61; app. corp.; reenl. Jan. 1, '64; app. sergt. July 1, '64; 1st sergt. Nov. 30, '64; sergt. major, March 17, '65; 1st. lieut. Co. A, May 1, '65; disch. Aug. 16, '65. See First N. H. Vols.

Sumner, Aaron B. Co. A; age 25; res. Swanzey, after the war, Keene; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; app. corp.; app. sergt. Jan. 10, '64; must. out June 21, '64.

Sumner, Alonzo D. Co. C; age 18; enl. Sept. 3, '61; disch. disab. June 9, '63, Concord. See V. R. C.

Sumner, David. Co. C; age 44; enl. Sept. 7, '61; disch. disab. June 11, '62, Washington, D. C. See Fourteenth N. H. V.

Taft, Edward N. Co. A; age 27; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; killed May 5, '62, Williamsburg, Va.

Tallant, Charles H. Band; age 19; enl. July 22, '61, as third class musc.; disch. March 24, '62. Supposed identical with Charles H. Tallant, U. S. navy.

Thatcher, Lucius. Co. A; age 21; enl. Sept. 4, '61; disch. disab. Oct. 17, '62.

Thompson, Henry A. Co. H; age 40; enl. Sept. 2, '61; disch. disab. June 9, '63, Concord. See V. R. C.

Thorning, William H. Co. A; age 21; res. Winchester, after the war, Keene; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; disch. May 30, '64, New York city, term exp.

Thurston, James. Co. C; age 18; b. Keene; res. Stoddard; enl. Sept. 9, '61; deserted.

Tottingham, Charles N. Band; age 34; enl. July 22, '61; must. as first class musc.; app. leader Sept. 1, '61; must. out Aug. 8, '62, near Harrison's Landing, Va. See Second Brig. band, in which he enl. Jan. 20, '63, as first class musc.; disch. disab. Nov. 17, '63.

Turner, Gardner W. Co. A; age 25; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61 for 3 yrs.; killed Aug. 29, '62, second Bull Run.

Walker, Albert R. Co. A; age 25; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; app. corp. Aug. 1, '61; sergt. June 1, '63; wd. sev. July 2, '63, Gettysburg; transf. to V. R. C. April 23, '64; disch. June 7, '64, Washington, D. C., term exp.

Warner, John S. Co. A; age 24; enl. Sept. 4, '61; res. Marlow, after the war, Keene; wd. May 5, '62, Williamsburg, Va.; disch. wds. Oct. 14, '62.

Watson, James. Co. K; age 18; b. Eng.; cred. Keene; enl. Dec. 3, '63; wd. June 3, '64, Cold Harbor; ent. Campbell Gen. Hospital, Washington, D. C.; transf. to Philadelphia June 10, '64. No further record.

Wheeler, William C. Co. A; age 33; enl. April 27, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; wd. June 25, '62, Oak Grove, Va.; disch. wds. Sept. 12, '62, Alexandria, Va.

Whipple, William. Co. A; age 20; res. Richmond, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 5, '61; disch. disab. July 9, '63, Concord.

White, Augustus C. Co. K; age 19; res. Marlboro, after the war, Keene; enl. Dec. 8, '63; disch. May 22, '65, Concord.

White, Henry. Co. A; age 20; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; died, dis. Dec. 9, '61, Charles County, Md.

White, Shubael. Co. A; age 51; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; must. as musc.; app. prin. musc. May 22, '61; disch. disab. Sept. 25, '61, Bladensburg, Md. See Sixth N. H. V. and V. R. C.

Whittemore, Daniel H. Co. A; age 25; enl. April 25, '61, for 3 mos.; reenl. May 22, '61, for 3 yrs.; wd. July 21, '61, Bull Run, Va.; disch. disab. Aug. 19, '61, Concord.

Wilber, William. Co. I; age 27; enl. Aug. 31, '61; wd. June 3, '64, Cold Harbor; disch. July 28, '65, Concord.

Willard, George H. Band; age 22; enl. July 22, '61; must. as third class musc.; must. out Aug. 8, '62, near Harrison's Landing, Va. Supposed identical with George H. Willard, Co. C., Fifth N. H. V.

Wright, Daniel. Co. A; age 31; enl. Aug. 1, '61; disch. disab. Oct. 12, '62, Alexandria, Va. See Fourteenth N. H. V. Formerly in state service.

Immediately after the first battle of Bull Run, when the first wave of depression had passed, the patriotism of the people rose to the highest pitch. Men rallied to the defence of the government with alacrity and enthusiasm, and regiment after regiment was equipped and sent into the field. Public meetings were held—frequently in the open air—and stirring speeches were made. Keene voted to instruct its selectmen to raise $2,500 by loan for immediate use to aid the families of its volunteers. Several recruiting offices were opened in Keene, from one of which Officer Fred A. Barker sent forward fifty-four recruits on the 21st of August for the Third regiment, then organizing at Concord. Lieut. Samuel S. Quinn from the discharged First regiment had an office here and others in other towns; Sergt. F. W Cobb from the Second was recruiting for that regiment; Lieut. H. T. H. Pierce, also from the First regiment, had an office in a tent on the common and recruited a company for the Fifth regiment; and Capt. Barker, from the Second, was also in the county on recruiting service for that regiment.

THIRD REGIMENT.

The Third New Hampshire Volunteers were organized during the month of August and started for the front, 1,035 strong, on the 3d of September; and the Fourth also left the state two weeks later. After spending a few weeks at Washington, the Third joined the expedition of Gen. Thomas W. Sherman to Port Royal, S. C., embarked at Annapolis and landed on the island of Hilton Head early in November and remained there until April. In June, 1862, it was sent to James Island, and on the 16th was sharply engaged at Secessionville, losing 105 men killed, wounded and missing. Among the wounded was Lieut. Henry C. Handerson of Keene. Returning to Hilton Head the regiment remained there until April, 1863, when it assisted in capturing Morris Island. It was also engaged in the siege of Fort Wagner, and lost heavily in the charge made on the 18th of July. In February, 1864, the regiment was again sent to Hilton Head and mounted. It took the name of Third New Hampshire Mounted Infantry, and was sent to Florida and encamped near Jacksonville; but in April it was dismounted and ordered to Virginia. In the meantime many of the men had reënlisted and received furloughs and had visited their homes. Arriving in Virginia about the 1st of May, the regiment was joined by the reënlisted men and took part in the actions of May 13, 14, 15 and 16 at Drewry's Bluff, losing many officers and men. Again on May 18, and June 2 and 16, it was engaged and suffered severe loss; and on the 16th of August "the regiment was well-nigh annihilated." The three years' term of enlistment of the original members expired on the 23d of August, and those who had not reënlisted were sent home and mustered out. Those who remained—a small battalion—joined in the siege of Petersburg. In November the battalion was sent to New York to aid in guarding the election against the interference of rioters, but soon returned to its camp at Laurel Hill, Va. In January, 1865, it formed a part of the infantry force engaged in the capture of Fort Fisher, and was sent thence to Wilmington, and afterwards to Goldborough, where it was mustered out, July 20,

1865. Twelve men from Keene served in that regiment, as found below. It is to be understood that they were privates and residents of Keene unless otherwise stated.

Brainard, Charles F. Non-com. staff; age 33; enl. Aug. 26, '61; must. as Q. M. sergt; app. 2d lieut. Co. E, Nov. 17, '62; 1st lieut. Co. K, May 13, '63; disch. disab. Aug. 10, '63.

Corker, Henry. Co. I; age 18; enl. July 25, '61; reenl. Feb. 25, '64; deserted.

Davis, George H. Co. I; age 29; enl. Aug. 1, '61; wd. June 16, '62, Secessionville, S. C.; app. corp. June 4, '63; reenl. Jan. 1, '64; app. sergt. May 1, '64; wd. May 13, '64, Drewry's Bluff, Va.; wd. May 18, '64, Bermuda Hundred, Va.; must. out July 20, '65. Received Gillmore medal.

Davis, Oliver O. Co. B; age 34; enl. Feb. 10, '62; wd. May 13, '64, Drewry's Bluff, Va.; died, wds., May 22, '64, Hampton, Va.

Emerson, George W. Co. F; age 44; b. Keene, res. Claremont; enl. July 29, '61; disch. Oct. 25, '64, term exp.

Fiske, William A. Co. I; age 21; enl. Aug. 20, '61; reenl. Jan. 1, '64; must. out July 20, '65.

Handerson, Henry C. Co. G; age 33; app. 2d lieut. Aug. 22, '61; 1st lieut., April 2, '62; wd., sev. June 16, '62, Secessionville, S. C.; app. capt. Co. K, March 7, '63; resigned Sept. 18, '63.

Holt, Edward B. Co. E; age 16; res. Nelson; cred. Keene; enl. Dec. 23, '63; wd., sev., May 13, 64, Drewry's Bluff, Va.; disch. disab. May 25, '65, Wilmington, N. C.

Joslin, Horace. Co. G; age 25; enl. Feb. 18, '62; app. wagoner; reenl. Feb. 18, '64; must. out July 20, '65.

Kavan, James. Co. C; age 29; enl. March 25, '62; disch. disab. May 9, '63; Hilton Head, S. C.

Smith, Samuel M. Co. I; age 26; enl. July 25, '61; app. 2d lieut. Aug. 22, '61; 1st lieut. Co. K, June 22, '62; resigned June 13, '63. See Fourteenth N. H. V. and U. S. colored troops.

Wyman, Emery R. Co. I; age 34; enl. Aug. 19, '61; wd., sev., May 13, '64, Drewry's Bluff, Va.; died, wds. May 16, '64.

FOURTH REGIMENT.

Only one man from Keene served in the Fourth New Hampshire Volunteers:

Drummer, Charles H. Co. F; age 23; enl. Aug. 31, '61; app. 2d lieut. Sept. 20, '61; resigned March 21, '62. See First N. H. V., and U. S. navy.

The operations of that regiment during the first two years of its service were wholly in the South—in the Carolinas and Florida. In 1864, it joined the Army of the James, afterwards that of the Potomac, and assisted in the siege of Petersburg. It was mustered out at Concord on the 23d of August, 1865.

FIFTH REGIMENT.

Thirty men from Keene joined the Fifth New Hampshire Volunteers. That regiment was organized at Concord in September and October, 1861, with Edward E. Cross, of Lancaster, an experienced soldier in the Mexican and Indian wars, as colonel. Company F was recruited chiefly from Cheshire county, with Horace T. H. Pierce, captain, and Samuel S. Quinn, second lieutenant, both of Keene and both from the First New Hampshire Volunteers. The regiment left New Hampshire for Washington on the 29th of October, was assigned to Sumner's division, of the Army of the Potomac, and encamped near Alexandria, where it remained until the following March. It was then assigned to Richardson's division, Second army corps, and was with the army at the siege of Yorktown and through the peninsular campaign, suffering heavy loss at Fair Oaks, Savage Station, White Oak Swamp and Malvern Hill. It returned with the army to Alexandria and Washington and was in the Maryland campaign in 1862. At South Mountain it was held in reserve, but at Antietam it was engaged and lost about one-third of its members present. At Fredericksburg, December 13, it was with the forces that stormed Marye's Heights, and suffered severely. Six color bearers were shot down, and of nineteen commissioned officers, eight were killed or mortally wounded, and five others wounded. Of 303 officers and men present for duty the total loss was 193, or more than sixty per cent. It was engaged in the battle of Chancellorsville, May 1-5, 1863, joined in the retreat of the army into Maryland, and was hotly engaged at Gettysburg, where Col. Cross was mortally wounded. The total loss of the regiment in that battle was about one-half of the whole number present. The Fifth joined in the pursuit of Lee's army as far as Warrenton, Va., when it was ordered home to recruit, remained in New Hampshire until November, then returned to the front and spent the winter of 1863-4 at Point Lookout, Md., with the Second and Twelfth New Hampshire Volunteers, guarding Confederate prisoners. At the opening of Grant's campaign through the Wilderness in 1864, it rejoined the Army of the Potomac

and was assigned to Barlow's division of Hancock's (Second) corps. At Cold Harbor, Va., it again suffered a loss of thirty-four killed or mortally wounded, and 192 wounded, out of a total of about 500. Crossing the James with the army, it took part in the siege of Petersburg, during which it twice recrossed the James and was engaged in the action at Deep Bottom, July 27, and again at the same place August 16, and at Ream's Station on the 25th. It then returned to the lines in front of Petersburg, and in the final struggle was engaged at Dinwiddie Court House, March 31, 1865. It made its last charge at Farmville on the 7th of April, where it was overpowered and lost its colors and some prisoners, but all were regained on the 9th, when Lee surrendered. It returned to Washington with the army, marched in the final grand review, and was mustered out at Alexandria on the 28th of June.

Below are given the records of Keene men, privates and residents of Keene unless otherwise stated:

Bailey, Augustus. Co. F; age 18 enl. Oct. 23, '61; died, dis. Jan. 15, '62, near Alexandria, Va.

Bromley, Joshua R. Co. F; age 29; enl. Oct. 23, '61; app. sergt; killed, June 6, '64, Cold Harbor, Va.

Carey, Gilman. Co. F; age 21; enl. Oct. 2, '61; wd. June 3, '64, Cold Harbor; must. out Oct. 29, '64.

Crown, Andrew J. Co. F; age 33; enl. Sept. 26, '61; disch. disab. Sept. 25, '62. See V. R. C.

Duren, John A. Non-com. staff; age 29; enl. Sept. 18, '61; app. Q. M. sergt; app. 2d lieut. Co. B, April 1, '63; 1st lieut. Co. I, Oct. 1, '63; captd. June 3, '64, Cold Harbor, Va.; released; disch. March 16, '65.

Farewell, Frederick A. Co. F; age 35; drafted Oct. 8, '63; must. out June 28, '65.

Fisk, Sewell A. Co. A; age 33; enl. Dec. 26, '63; wd. June 4, '64, Cold Harbor; disch. May 11, '65, Washington D. C.

Foss, Benjamin H. Co. F; age 21; drafted Oct. 8, '63, transf. to navy April 26, 64; deserted July 6, '65.

Handy, George E. Co. F; age 18; enl. Oct. 23, '61; miss. June 1, '62, Fair Oaks, Va.; returned from miss.; disch. April 25, '64. See miscel. org.

Heustis, William E. Co. F; age 17; enl. Oct. 23, '61; must. as musc.; reenl. Feb. 19, '64; disch. disab. Sept. 1, '64.

Houghton, Abel. Co. F; age 43; enl. Oct. 23, '61; must. as musc.; disch. disab. Dec. 31, '62. See V. R. C.

Houghton, George E. Co. F; age 18; app. corp.; transf. to I. C., Sept. 16, '63; app. sergt.; disch. Oct. 25, '64, at Fortress Monroe, term exp.

Howard, William. Co. F; age 45; enl. Oct. 23, '61; died dis. July 4, '62, Harrison's Landing, Va.

Kidder, Henry. Co. F; age 34; drafted Oct. 9, '63; disch. May 20, '65.

Parker, Warren M. Co. F; age 18; enl. Oct. 23, '61; app. corp.; killed July 2, '63, Gettysburg.

Pierce, Horace T. H. Co. F; age 37; app. capt. Oct. 12, '61; resigned Jan. 29, '63. See First N. H. V.

Quinn, Charles A. Co. F; age 24; enl. Oct. 23, '61; wd. Sept. 17, '62, Antietam, Md.; died, wds., Nov. 17, '62, Sharpsburg, Md.

Quinn, Samuel S. Co. F; age 21; res. Swanzey, after the war, Keene; app. 2d lieut. Oct. 12, '61; wd. July 1, '62, Malvern Hill; app. 1st lieut. Co. D, Aug. 1, '62; app. capt. Dec. 17, '62; resigned Feb. 17, '63. See First N. H. V.

Reed, John A. Co. F; age 19; enl. Oct. 23, '61; wd. June 1, '62, Fair Oaks, Va.; died, wds., June 24, '62, Philadelphia.

Robbins, Isaiah, Jr. Co. F; age 23; drafted Oct. 9, '63; wd. June 3, '64, Cold Harbor, Va.; disch. disab. May 28, '65.

Roby, Charles. Co. F; age 31; drafted Oct. 9, '63; died, dis., June 24, '64, Washington, D. C.

Stone, Sydney C. Co. F; age 26; enl. Oct. 23, '61; wd. June 1, '62, Fair Oaks, Va.; disch., wds., Sept. 8, '62, New York city; drafted, Oct. 8, '63; miss. April 7, '65, Farmville, Va.; returned; must. out June 28, '65.

Sturtevant, Edward E. Co. A; b. Keene; res. Concord; age 33; app. capt. Oct. 12, '61; wd. June 1, '62, Fair Oaks, Va.; app. major, July 30, '62; killed Dec. 13, '62, Fredericksburg, Va. See First N. H. V.

Towne, Elbridge. Co. F; age 32; cnl. Oct. 23, '61; wd. May, '63, Chancellorsville, Va.; wd. June 4, '64, Cold Harbor; died, wds. July 1, '64, Alexandria, Va.

Trask, Daniel W. Co. F; age 19; enl. Oct. 23, '61; wd. June, '62, Fair Oaks; wd. Dec. 13, '62, Fredericksburg, Va.; wd. May, '63, Chancellorsville; reenl. Feb. 22, '64; disch. June 28, '65.

Trask, William H. Co. F; age 43; enl. Dec. 18, '63; captd. April 7, '65, Farmville, Va.; exchanged; disch. June 2, '65, Washington, D. C.

Wait, John H. Co. F; age 22; enl. Oct. 23, '61; app. corp.; killed, Dec. 13, '62, Fredericksburg, Va. See First N. H. V.

Waite, George W. Co. F; age 23; drafted, Oct. 9, '63; wd. Aug. 25, '64, Ream's Station, Va.; disch. disab. May 31, '65, Manchester, N. H.

Willard, George H. Co. C; age 24; drafted, Oct. 9, '63; wd. July 12, '64, near Petersburg, Va.; disch. May 5, '65, Washington, D. C. Supposed identical with George H. Willard, band, Second N. H. V.

Winslow, Jesse C. Co. F; age 34; drafted Oct. 9, '63; wd, June 3, '64, Cold Harbor; wd. Aug. 16, '64, Deep Bottom, Va.; miss. April 7, '65; returned; must. out June 28, '65.

SIXTH REGIMENT.

The Sixth regiment[1] had its rendezvous at Keene in the months of November and December, 1861, and was mustered into the United States service Nov. 27-30. Its camp was on the Cheshire county fair grounds, now Wheelock

[1] A more extended historical account of the Sixth regiment is given for the reason that a large number of its members were residents of Keene, and that, having encamped in town for nearly two months, a more extensive acquaintance was made with its officers and men by the citizens of Keene than with those of any other regiment.

park, which then had buildings suitable for the quartermaster's use, but not for quarters for the men. Those were provided by the state in the form of large conical tents, each of which was furnished with a stove. Nelson Converse, of Marlboro, was appointed colonel; S. G. Griffin, promoted from captain in the Second, lieutenant colonel; and Charles Scott of Peterboro, major. Don H. Woodward, Esq., of Keene was appointed adjutant, but resigned before the regiment left the state, and was succeeded by Phin P. Bixby, of Concord. Alonzo Nute, of Farmington, afterwards member of congress, was quartermaster; Dr. William A. Tracy, of Nashua, surgeon, succeeded after a year and a half by the assistant-surgeon, Dr. Sherman Cooper of Claremont; and Rev. Robert Stinson, of Croydon, chaplain, succeeded after six months by Rev. John A. Hamilton of Keene, who remained with the regiment one year. Company E was recruited in Keene by Obed G. Dort, who was appointed its captain; and John A. Cummings, who joined it with a squad of recruits from Peterboro, was made its first lieutenant. A part of Company F was also recruited in Keene, by George C. Starkweather, who was appointed its captain, but soon resigned; and there were Keene men also in other companies. During their stay in Keene the officers of the regiment received polite attentions from the citizens, and accepted many invitations to social functions—a striking contrast to the hard and dangerous life which was before them. On Thanksgiving day the whole regiment was provided by the citizens with a sumptuous dinner at the camp, which both officers and men thoroughly enjoyed and never forgot. December 19 the regiment marched to the Square and formed in a circle around Central park, in which were Governor Berry and staff, Hon. Peter Sanborn, state treasurer—who was present to pay the soldiers the money then due them from the state and their bounty of ten dollars each—and the field and staff officers of the regiment. The governor addressed the regiment in a patriotic speech and presented it with its state banner and the national colors. On Christmas morning the regiment left its camp and marched to the station—through snow more than a

foot deep which had fallen in the night preceding—and took the cars on the Fitchburg, Worcester and Norwich route to New York and thence direct to Washington. The Sentinel of December 26 published a full roster of its members, with the following paragraph:

"DEPARTURE OF THE SIXTH.—The Sixth regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers left Keene in twenty-two cars, at about nine o'clock, Wednesday morning. The soldiers seemed in good spirits, and were heartily cheered by an immense crowd that had assembled to witness their departure. * * * *

"Taken as a whole, we doubt if a better body of men has gone to the war from this state. The field and staff officers are gentlemen of superior character, unstained by any vicious habits, and are actuated by the purest principles of patriotism. They have the entire confidence of the men under them, and of all who know them at home."

Encamping for a few days near Washington, the Sixth was assigned to Burnside's expedition to North Carolina, and on the 8th of January, 1862, went on board the ship Martha Greenwood, at Annapolis. At Fortress Monroe it was transferred to the side-wheel steamer Louisiana, and in that river boat doubled Cape Hatteras in one of the worst storms of that stormy coast. For several weeks it was encamped on Hatteras Island, where it suffered severely from measles, malarial fever and other diseases. About sixty men died, and several others were permanently disabled. This sickness prevented the regiment from taking part in the capture of Roanoke Island, but early in March it removed to that island and remained until June, making some excursions on the main land and breaking up rebel encampments.

In March, Col. Converse resigned and Lt. Col. Griffin was promoted to colonel, Major Scott to lieutenant colonel, and Capt. Dort to major. On the 19th of April the Sixth was engaged in the battle of Camden, N. C., and at a critical moment was ordered to attack. The regiment advanced in line of battle, nearly 1,000 strong, and at the word of command poured in a volley with all the coolness and precision of a dress parade. The enemy broke and fled, and the battle was won. That volley brought the Sixth commendation in general orders, and gave it a reputation

in Burnside's corps which lasted through the war. From Roanoke Island it joined the main body of Burnside's force at Newberne, and on the 1st of July was assigned to Reno's division of that force—now the Ninth army corps —and sent to aid McClellan on the peninsula. McClellan's movements having failed, Reno's division was ordered to the aid of Gen. Pope, commanding the army in front of Washington, landed at Acquin Creek, marched to Culpepper Court House, and joined in Pope's retreat before the advance of Lee's army. During its four weeks with Pope's army the service of the regiment was exceedingly severe —marching by night, and engaged, or in constant expectation of engagements, by day. That campaign was one of the most trying the Sixth ever experienced. Rev. John A. Hamilton of Keene was appointed chaplain and joined the regiment at the beginning of this campaign.

Previous to that, while the regiment was encamped for a short time at Newport News, the wives of Lt. Col. Scott, Major Dort, and Capt. John A. Cummings, visited their husbands, taking the major's little son, four or five years old, with them. After the regiment had left, the party, with the sick of Reno's division, among whom was Lt. Col. Scott, went on board the steamer West Point and started for Baltimore. While ascending the Potomac river, in the evening of August 13, the boat collided with the descending steamer, George Peabody, and sank. One hundred and twenty were drowned, including all the ladies and the child, and George W. Marsh, of Keene, a private in the Sixth.

At the second battle of Bull Run, Aug. 29, the Sixth —with the two other regiments of its brigade, the Second Maryland on its right and the Forty-eighth Pennsylvania on its left—was sent into a piece of woods with orders from Gen. Reno to "Drive the enemy out and hold that ground." The regiment made a gallant attempt to obey the order, not suspecting that it was set to perform an impossible task. As it advanced into the woods it was received with a murderous fire; four color-bearers were shot down in succession; its left flank was uncovered, and it was compelled to retreat to save itself from capture.

Almost one-half of its whole number of officers and men present—about 450—were killed, wounded or taken prisoners. Among the mortally wounded were Lieut. George H. Muchmore, Sergeant Isaac P. McMaster, and Private Samuel E. Douglass; and among the wounded were Privates Anthony Demore, Roger S. Derby, Henry A. Farnum, Henry C. Flagg, Henry Flint and James H. Smith, all of Keene. It was afterwards learned that the opposing force was Longstreet's whole corps, seven lines deep.

After the battle of Chantilly, in which it was engaged Sept. 1, the Sixth was with its corps in McClellan's Maryland campaign. It was engaged at South Mountain; and at Antietam, with the Second Maryland, both under Col. Griffin, it made a gallant charge on the famous stone bridge, but their numbers were too small to ensure success. It was, however, one of the first to cross the bridge with the reinforcements brought up, and was the first to form its line confronting the enemy on the bluff beyond the bridge. After that battle and a rest in Pleasant Valley, the Sixth was with the army in its pursuit of Lee, and at Fredericksburg, Dec. 13, it was in the column of the Ninth corps that charged Marye's Heights, and suffered severe loss. In February, 1863, two divisions of the Ninth corps under Gen. John G. Parke were sent to Newport News, and thence, in March, to join Gen. Burnside in his command of the department of the Ohio. Early in April they moved into Kentucky to protect that state from Confederate raids and prepare for an advance into east Tennessee; and for a few weeks the soldiers enjoyed their camps in the celebrated blue grass counties. Col. Griffin being in command of the brigade, Lt. Col. Henry H. Pearson, promoted from captain, was now in command of the regiment.

Early in June, Gen. Parke and his two divisions were sent to aid Gen. Grant in his siege of Vicksburg, and formed a part of the army under Gen. Sherman to confront the Confederate Gen. Johnson and protect Grant's rear. The Ninth corps troops were encamped at Milldale and vicinity, on the Yazoo river. Vicksburg surrendered on the

4th of July, and Sherman immediately moved his army, reinforced by a part of Grant's, in pursuit of Johnson. The march to Jackson, where Johnson made a stand and the Sixth was engaged, and that of the return to Milldale after the capture of the city, were among the hardest and most distressing ever experienced by the Sixth, on account of the heat and lack of water; and that campaign in those malarial regions of Mississippi was more injurious to the health and morale of the troops of the Ninth corps than any other of the whole war. Many lives were lost and many constitutions broken. In August, the corps returned to Kentucky. In consequence of the sickness thus contracted the Second division was divided, the stronger regiments marching to east Tennessee, while those more seriously affected remained to recuperate and protect the loyal people of Kentucky. The Sixth was encamped for short terms at Frankfort and Russellville, and then was placed on guard and provost duty at Camp Nelson, a large and important depot of supplies near Nicholasville, Ky.

While at that post a large majority of the men—280, or about three-fourths of all who had served a sufficient length of time—reënlisted for three years or the war, and received a furlough of thirty days granted by the terms of enlistment. The Sixth was the first New Hampshire regiment to reënlist, and did so in larger proportionate numbers than any other from the state, retaining its organization of ten companies to the close of the war, while most of the others were consolidated with other New Hampshire regiments before being mustered out. On the 16th of January, 1864, the regiment—the reënlisted men—under Lt. Col. Pearson, started for New Hampshire. On its route to Concord, via Cleveland, Buffalo and Rutland, the regiment stopped over one night in Keene. It was royally received and entertained by the citizens, and the men were provided with quarters in the town hall. At Concord it had another grand reception, and the next day the men dispersed to their homes. They remained in the state until the 18th of March, when they reassembled at Concord and again started for the front to take part in Grant's great campaign through the Wilderness.

The Ninth corps was then reassembling and reorganizing under Gen. Burnside at Annapolis. There the Sixth met its recruits and those who had not reënlisted, brought forward from Kentucky. The Ninth and Eleventh New Hampshire Volunteers were also brought on from Kentucky and east Tennessee, and the three New Hampshire regiments, with the Seventeenth Vermont and Thirty-first and Thirty-second Maine, constituted the Second brigade of the Second division, commanded by Col. S. G. Griffin, thus leaving Lt. Col. Pearson in command of the Sixth. It was sometimes called the New Hampshire brigade, but other regiments were added from time to time until there were eleven in all in that brigade. On the 23d of April the corps left Annapolis, marched through Washington, where it was reviewed by President Lincoln, and after some delays joined the Army of the Potomac just beyond the Rapidan river on the evening of the 5th of May. At 2 o'clock the next morning the New Hampshire brigade was again in motion, marched a few miles in the darkness, got in position as daylight appeared, and attacked the enemy at sunrise near "Parker's Store." After some desultory fighting in that position the brigade was ordered to the left, through the woods, to aid in repelling an attack of the enemy on that part of the field. As it came on the ground and formed in line in rear of two other brigades of the corps, which were lying down to avoid the shot, it made an imposing appearance, four of the regiments being fresh from their states, with well filled ranks and bright new uniforms and colors. Gen. Burnside and Gen. Potter, commander of the Second division, were present with their staffs. Pleased with the appearance of this fresh force, Burnside turned to Potter and said: "Let Griffin attack." Potter repeated the order and Griffin gave the command "Forward!" The brigade of six large battalions, numbering about 3,000 men, advanced in line of battle, and as it passed over the prostrate brigades, one after the other, the sight was so inspiring that the men of each line as it was passed sprang to their feet, cheered, and, without orders, joined in the forward movement. The whole mass of enthusiastic troops advanced to the

charge under a withering fire. For a while they bore the enemy back; and the Sixth New Hampshire sprang forward, charged with the bayonet, and brought out 106 prisoners. But the troops of other corps on the left of the Ninth did not join in the movement, and soon its flank was exposed. The enemy did not fail to take advantage of that opening, swept round and enveloped that flank and compelled the Ninth corps to fall back, but only to the ground from which the movement started. The Sixth New Hampshire lost heavily in killed and wounded, and Henry A. Farnum of Keene was captured. The Eleventh New Hampshire also suffered in killed and wounded, among them Lt. Col. Collins, mortally wounded, and Lieut. Hutchins, serving on Col. Griffin's staff, killed; and Col. Harriman and several others of that regiment were taken prisoners.

During that night the army moved by the left, and at Spottsylvania Court House on the 12th the New Hampshire brigade led the advance of the Ninth corps in its support of Hancock's movement, at 4 o'clock in the morning, met the enemy in a desperate struggle of five hours' duration, held its ground, and saved Hancock's corps from being swept off the field in a countercharge. The Ninth New Hampshire made a gallant dash to capture a Confederate gun, but was repulsed with severe loss. That regiment was in command of Major George H. Chandler, Lt. Col. Babbitt having been directed by Col. Griffin to take command of the Thirty-second Maine, which was destitute of field officers. The Eleventh New Hampshire was in command of its senior officer present, Capt. H. O. Dudley. The Sixth lost sixty-seven killed and wounded, among the latter Patrick McCaffery, mortally, and William H. Barber, of Keene. The Ninth lost fifty-five killed or mortally wounded, and nearly 200 wounded, among the latter, Col. Babbitt, severely, and John E. Ellis of Keene; and its commander, Major Chandler, was also wounded. The Eleventh lost nineteen killed or mortally wounded and about 150 wounded—a total loss in the three New Hampshire regiments of nearly 500. The lines taken on the 12th were held until the 18th, when a reconnoissance, ordered by Gen. Grant to ascertain whether the enemy was still

in force in our front, was made by Griffin's brigade. The enemy showed no diminution in numbers or determination, and the brigade returned to its position.

Again the army moved to the left, and the New Hampshire brigade was engaged at North Anna river—where Lt. Col. Pearson, of the Sixth, a brave and meritorious officer, was instantly killed—at Tolopotomoy creek, Bethesda Church, and Cold Harbor, June 3. Another movement to the left, by night and by day, brought the army to the James river, which it crossed, and arrived in front of the enemy's outer line of entrenchments at Petersburg on the 16th of June. That night was spent by the brigade in working its way through slashed timber at the Shand's house, and on the morning of the 17th, at daybreak, it made a dash over the enemy's works, captured about one thousand prisoners, four pieces of artillery and a quantity of arms and ammunition. Advancing the next day to the main works, for nine weeks it lay in the besieging lines, close to the enemy—in some places within two hundred yards—almost constantly under the fire of the pickets, and suffered continual loss in killed and wounded. It joined in the charge at the battle of the Mine, July 30, where the Sixth lost heavily. Among the killed of that regiment was Capt. William K. Crossfield, of Keene, an excellent officer. On the 20th of August, the Ninth corps moved to the left and was engaged in the battle on the Weldon railroad; and again, Sept. 30, at Poplar Springs Church, where the New Hampshire brigade lost heavily in killed, wounded and captured. Among the killed was Lieut. Emory of the Ninth, on Gen. Griffin's staff.

A law having been enacted allowing soldiers in the field to vote, at the national election in November, the New Hampshire brigade voted at follows:

For President:	Abraham Lincoln.	George B. McClellan.
Sixth regiment	102	18
Ninth regiment	97	18
Eleventh regiment	154	49
	353	85

Early in December the Ninth corps returned to its former position in front of Petersburg, and held the lines

on both sides of the Jerusalem plank road. During the last days of March and first of April, 1865, in the movements that culminated in the capture of Petersburg and Richmond, Griffin's brigade of nine regiments bore an important part. Acting under orders from Gen. Grant, in connection with Hartranft's division of six regiments, on its right, it made an assault at 4 o'clock on Sunday morning, the 2d of April, and broke through the enemy's main line —the line, bristling with abatis that had held the Union army for more than nine months—in front of Fort Sedgwick; and the next morning the army marched into Petersburg. A furious artillery duel had aroused the enemy, and the assaulting columns were received with a deadly fire, the brigade losing 725 men in killed and wounded. The brigade was with its division—now commanded by Gen. Griffin—in the pursuit, and at the surrender of Lee; and afterwards encamped at Alexandria, and took part in the grand review in Washington on the 23d of May. In June and July the troops were mustered out of service, the Sixth New Hampshire[1] being retained till the last of its division —July 17. Each regiment as it was discharged proceeded to Concord and delivered its colors to the governor of New Hampshire.

The following men from Keene served in that regiment. They were privates and residents of Keene unless otherwise stated.

Barber, William H. Co. F; age 18; enl. Aug. 11, '62; wd. May 12, '64, Spottsylvania Court House; disch. June 4, '65, Alexandria, Va.

Black, J. Ransom. Co. E; age 22; enl. Oct. 18, '61; disch. disab. March 30, '63, Philadelphia.

Brown, John R. Co. E; age 31; enl. Nov. 27, '61; disch. disab. Aug. 2, '63, Milldale, Miss.; died, dis., Aug. 9, '63, en route from Vicksburg.

Brown, Marshall L. Co. E; age 24; enl. Nov. 12, '61; app. hosp. steward, Jan. 2, '63; reenl. Dec. 29, '63; app. asst. surg. June 1, '65; must. out July 17, '65.

Campbell, Charles. Co. F; age 44; enl. Oct. 7, '61; disch. disab. Feb. 2, '63, Newark, N. J.

Carroll, Thomas. Co. F; age 48; enl. Oct. 14, '61; miss. Aug. 29, '62, Bull Run, Va.; return from miss.; disch. disab. Jan. 17, '63, Alexandria, Va. See V. R. C.

Cass, Lewis. Co. I; age 44; enl. Oct. 21, '61; must. in Nov. 28, '61. No farther record.

[1] For further details of the service of the Sixth and of the New Hampshire brigade, see sketch of its commander, Gen. S. G. Griffin.

Cheney, Clinton C. Co. E; age 18; enl. Oct. 14, '61; app. corp.; died, dis., Feb. 26, '62, Hatteras Inlet.

Church, John L. Co. F; age 42; enl. Oct. 3, '61; died, dis., Aug. 31, '63, Nicholasville, Ky.

Clark, Charles L. Co. F; age 22; b. Marlboro; res. Keene; enl. Nov. 15, '61; app. sergt.; reenl. Jan. 4, '64, cred. Marlboro; app. 1st sergt. March 1, '64, 1st lieut. March 2, '65; must. out July 17, '65, Alexandria, Va.

Clement, Benjamin F. Co. E; age 42; enl. Nov. 9, '61; disch. disab. Feb. 6, '63, Alexandria, Va. See V. R. C.

Crossfield, William K. Co. E; age 28; enl. Oct. 31, '61; app. 1st sergt. Nov. 28, '61, 2d lieut. April 23, '62, capt. Co. C, Oct. 16, '62; killed July 30, '64, mine expl., Petersburg, Va.

Demore, Anthony. Co. H; age 18; enl. Sept. 30, '61; transf. to Co. F, Dec. 1, '61; wd. Aug. 29, '62, Bull Run, Va.; killed Dec. 13, '62, Fredericksburg, Va.

Derby, Roger S. Co. G; age 18; enl. Dec. 3, '61; wd. Aug. 29, '62, Bull Run; disch. Feb. 26, '63, Washington, D. C.

Dodwell, John. Co. G; age 44; enl. Dec. 7, '61; deserted March 19, '64, Covington, Ky.

Dort, Obed G. Co. E; age 33; app. capt. Nov. 30, '61; app. major April 22, '62; resigned Sept. 24, '62.

Douglass, Samuel E. Co. F; age 18; enl. Oct. 14, '61; wd. Aug. 29, '62, Bull Run; died, wds., Sept. 19, '62, Georgetown, D. C.

Farnum, Henry A. Co. F; age 18; enl. Sept. 25, '61; wd. Aug. 29, '62, Bull Run; captd. May 6, '64, Wilderness, Va.; released March 1, '65; disch. May 20, '65, term exp.

Flagg, Henry C. Co. G; age 19; enl. Dec. 3, '61; wd. Aug. 29, '62, Bull Run; disch. Dec. 23, '62, Washington, D. C.

Flint, Henry. Co. E; age 25; enl. Oct. 30, '61; wd. and miss. Aug. 29, '62, Bull Run; return from miss.; died, dis., Oct. 15, '62, Georgetown, D. C.

Gage, William. Co. F; age 38; enl. Nov. 30, '61; app. corp.; reenl. Jan. 4, '64, cred. Surry; must. out July 17, '65, Alexandria, Va.

Garroty, John. Co. H; age 28; enl. Dec. 11, '61; reenl. Jan. 16, '64, cred. Hinsdale; must. out July 17, '65.

Griffin, Simon G. Field and staff; age 37; res. Concord, after the war, Keene; app. lt. col. Oct. 26, '61, col. April 22, '62; disch. May 11, '64, to accept promotion. See Second N. H. V., and miscel. org.

Hadley, Emory. Co. F; age 18; enl. Sept. 20, '61; deserted, Dec. 11, '62, Falmouth, Va.

Hamilton, John A. Field and staff; age 31; app. chaplain July 16, '62; resigned July 1, '63.

Hill, Silas W. Co. F; age 36; enl. Nov. 18, '61; app. corp.; transf. to invalid corps, Sept. 17, '63; disch. Nov. 28, '64, New York city.

Irish, Henry G. Co. F; age 34; enl. Nov. 11, '61; disch. Feb. 25, '64, Camp Dennison, Ohio.

Kingsbury, Edward A. Co. E; age 22; res. Surry, after the war, Keene; enl. Nov. 5, '61; disch. disab. Jan. 29, '63. See First N. H. Art.

Lawrence, Frederick C. Co. F; age 21; enl. Oct. 17, '61; disch. disab. Jan. 2, '63; died, dis. Jan. 25, '63, Troy.

Marsh, George W. Co. E; age 25; enl. Nov. 16, '61; drowned Aug. 13, '62, by foundering of steamer, West Point, in Potomac river. See First N. H. V.

Martin, Paul. Co. G; age 43; enl. Nov. 15, '61; disch. Oct. 18, '62, Alexandria, Va. See Fifth N. H. V.

Marvin, Bryon O. Co. F; age 18; enl. Oct. 21, '61; disch. disab. May 1, '64, Indianapolis, Ind.

Mason, Orin F. Co. F; age 18; b. Sullivan; res. Keene; enl. Nov. 15, '61; app. corp.; reenl. Jan. 1, '64; cred. Sullivan; wd. June 17, '64, Petersburg, Va.; app. sergt. July 1, '65; must. out July 17, '65.

McCaffrey, Patrick. Co. F; age 28; res. Keene; enl. Oct. 16, '61; reenl. Jan. 4, '64; cred. Stratford; wd. May 18, '64, Spottsylvania, Va.; died, wds. May 20, '64, Fredericksburg, Va.

McMaster, Isaac P. Co. E; age 32; enl. Oct. 19, '61; app. sergt. Nov. 28, '61; killed Aug. 29, '62, Bull Run.

Metcalf, Salmon G. Co. F; age 25; enl. Oct. 12, '61; app. corp.; disch. disab. Oct. 27, '62, Providence, R. I.

Muchmore, George H. Co. E; age 31; enl. Oct. 17, '61, as priv.; app. 2d lieut. Nov. 30, '61, 1st lieut. April 23, '62; wd. Aug. 29, '62, Bull Run; died, wds., Sept. 11, '62, Washington, D. C.

Perry, William H. Co. F; age 18; enl. Sept. 28, '61; wd. Dec. 13, '62, Fredericksburg, Va.; sent to gen. hospital, Central park, New York city, for guard duty, June 5, '63; sent to Park barracks July 29, '63; no farther record.

Rahn, William. Co. G; age 44; enl. Dec. 5, '61; disch. April 23, '63, Newberne, N. C. See V. R. C.

Richardson, George B. Co. F; age 45; b. Keene; res. Swanzey; enl. Oct. 1, '61; disch. disab. June 24, '62, Newberne, N. C.

Richardson, Justus S. Co. K; age 18; res. Rindge, after the war, Keene; enl. Oct. 28, '61; reenl. Jan. 4, '64; captd. Oct. 1, '64, Poplar Springs Church, Va.; released; app. corp. June 1, '65, sergt. July 1, '65; must. out July 17, '65.

Russell, James W. Co. E; age 21; enl. Oct. 14, '61; must. out July 17, '65. Res. Rindge, after the war, Keene.

Sebastian, Edward P. Co. E; age 20; res. Swanzey, after the war, Keene; enl. Oct. 1, '61; disch. disab. Nov. 12, '62. See Eighteenth N. H. V.

Smith, James H. Co. E; age 20; enl. Nov. 9, '61; wd. Aug. 29, '62, Bull Run; disch. disab. Dec. 28, 63. See V. R. C.

Starkey, Joseph S. Co. F; age 44; enl. Nov. 28, '61; disch. disab. Feb. 10, '63. See V. R. C.

Starkweather, George C. Co. F; age 22; app. capt. Nov. 30, '61; resigned Jan. 29, '62.

Stearns, Charles F. Co. F; age 32; enl. Nov. 6, '61; died, dis. Dec. 2, '62, Washington, D. C.

Stone, Lewis. Co. F; age 27; enl. Nov. 15, '61; reenl. Jan. 4, '64; deserted, July 25, '64, Concord, N. H.

Town, Edgar. Co. G; age 18; enl. Dec. 6, '61; app. corp.; wd. Dec. 13, '62; died, wds. Dec. 15, '62, Fredericksburg, Va.

Towne, Hosea. Co. E; age 35; enl. Oct. 19, '61; app. sergt.; must. out Nov. 28, '64.

Viger, Arcules. Co. F; age 35; enl. Oct. 13, '61; res. Keene; reenl. Dec. 22, '63, cred. Marlboro; must. out July 17, '65.

White, Shubael. Non-com. staff; age 51; enl. Nov. 28, '61, and must. as principal musc.; disch. disab. March 3, '62, Roanoke Island. See Second N. H. V. and V. R. C.

Woodward, Don H. Field and staff; age 26; app. adjt. Nov. 19, '61; not must. in; resigned Nov. 28, '61.

Young, John. Co. H; age 21; enl. Dec. 10, '61; deserted Aug. 10, '62, Falmouth, Va.; returned May 9, '65, under president's proclamation; disch. May 9, '65, Concord, N. H.

SEVENTH REGIMENT.

The Seventh New Hampshire Volunteers were organized in the fall of 1861, by authority direct from the war department to the adjutant general of the state, and were equipped and supplied by the United States government. The citizens of Keene were not represented in that regiment.

EIGHTH REGIMENT.

Only two men from Keene served in the Eighth New Hampshire Volunteers:

Carr, Clark H. Co. H; age 33; enl. Nov. 8, '61; app. corp.; disch. disab. May 4, '63, at New Orleans.

Estabrook, Aaron G. Co. H; age 34; b. Keene; res. Concord; app. capt. Dec. 20, '61; resigned Aug. 29, '62. See First N. H. Cav.

The service of that regiment was wholly in the South, chiefly in Louisiana.

TOWN AND STATE AFFAIRS.

Early in August, 1861, the large building on Court street north of the courthouse, owned by Abijah Wilder and occupied by Samuel Woodward & Co., dealers in stoves and tin ware, (formerly Norwood & Hubbard) and by Joseph Foster for the manufacture of organs and melodeons, was destroyed by fire. The loss was about $4,000. That building is believed to have been the first meetinghouse built on the common and afterwards used as a courthouse. When a new wooden courthouse was built in 1795 it was placed "on the site of the old one," which was removed, and probably to this spot.

During the winter of 1861-2 the hearts of the people were cheered by the success of Burnside's expedition to North Carolina and the capture of Roanoke Island, by Grant's victories at Forts Henry and Donnelson, and by great expectations of McClellan and his army—then lying idle in front of Washington.

Washington's birthday was celebrated in Keene with ardent patriotism. At a large meeting in the town hall, Hon. Levi Chamberlain presided, stirring speeches were made, there was music by a military band and a glee club, and thirty-four girls representing the states, each

carrying a miniature flag, sang "The Star Spangled Banner." Bells were rung at sunrise, noon and sunset, and there were bonfires in the evening.

At the annual meeting in March, Keene appropriated $3,000 for the relief of the wives and children of its volunteers, and to continue the pay of deceased soldiers to their families for the current year. It was also voted to accept and adopt the act of the legislature, passed the previous year, enabling the town to establish waterworks, and a committee of seven, of which William P Wheeler was chairman, was appointed to see what measures were necessary to carry out the act.

As the season advanced and reports of the capture of New Orleans, the movements of McClellan's army and other operations in the field were received, the excitement again became intense. Frequent public meetings were held, at one of which, on the 19th of July, a subscription paper to aid the volunteers and their families was started, and $3,400 were subscribed on the spot, increased within a few days to $4,000. On the 26th of the same month there was a mass meeting on the common at which 3,000 to 4,000 people were assembled. Ex-Governor Dinsmoor again presided, with prominent men of the county for vice presidents. The principal speakers were Hon. Daniel Clark, United States senator; Hon. Thomas M. Edwards, member of congress; and Capt. T. A. Barker, of the Second regiment, at home on leave of absence. A legal town meeting on the 2d of August voted $50 bounty to each volunteer, and $75 to those who would enlist in the regiments already in the field, in addition to all bounties paid by the state and national governments. Another mass meeting was held in Cheshire Hall (in the south wing of the Cheshire House) on the 21st of August, town meetings were held in the town hall on the 23d and 25th, and there was another mass meeting on the common on the 29th of the same month. More troops having been called for—some for nine months—on the 6th of September the town voted to increase its bounties to the three years' men to $150, and to pay $100 to nine months' men; and the selectmen were authorized to borrow $22,000 for that

purpose. In June, Jacob Green and Arthur N. Elliot opened recruiting offices, followed soon afterwards by Nelson N. Sawyer, for the Ninth New Hampshire Volunteers. Charles A. Harnden was here recruiting for the Tenth, Capt. Solon A. Carter and others for the Fourteenth, and in September, Horatio Colony and Fred H. Kingsbury opened offices for nine months' men. During that summer and fall of 1862, New Hampshire organized and sent into the field eight regiments of infantry — the Ninth to the Sixteenth — numbering about 8,000 men, besides sending large numbers of recruits to those already in the service.

NINTH REGIMENT.

On the 4th of August Lieut. Green, with forty-seven recruits, started on the march to Concord, to join the Ninth New Hampshire Volunteers, then organizing there, escorted to the top of Beech hill by a cavalcade of citizens. That squad formed the nucleus of Company I, of which John W. Babbitt was appointed captain, Jacob Green first lieutenant, and Nelson N. Sawyer second lieutenant. The Ninth, with Enoch Q. Fellows, of Sandwich, colonel, and Herbert B. Titus, of Chesterfield, lieutenant colonel, left the state on the 25th of August, and soon after its arrival at Washington was assigned to the First brigade, Second division of the Ninth army corps, in which were the Sixth New Hampshire Volunteers and joined its brigade on the Monocacy river, Md. On the 14th of September it was engaged at South Mountain, on the 17th at Antietam, and on the 13th of December at Fredericksburg. In February, 1863, it went with its corps to Newport News, thence to Kentucky, and thence to the aid of Gen. Grant at Vicksburg, Miss. After the surrender of that city it joined in the pursuit of Johnson and the capture of the city of Jackson, and returned with the corps to Kentucky. The Ninth was seriously affected by the climate of Mississippi, and was placed on light duty to recuperate. With its regimental headquarters at Paris, in the centre of the blue grass region, it had the very agreeable duty of guarding the Kentucky Central railroad and protecting the inhabitants from Confederate raids. Early in 1864 it

was ordered to east Tennessee, but almost immediately returned, and rejoined the Ninth corps at Annapolis, Md. There it was assigned to the Second brigade, Second division, with the Sixth and Eleventh New Hampshire Volunteers, commanded by Col. S. G. Griffin, and the remainder of its sketch may be found in connection with the Sixth and the New Hampshire brigade.

Following is a list of members of the regiment from Keene, being privates and residents of Keene unless otherwise stated:

Ayer, Elisha. Co. I; age 41; enl. June 21, '62; app. sergt.; transf. to I. C., Jan. 15, '64; disch. July 24, '65, Cleveland, Ohio.

Babbitt, John W. Co. I; age 27; app. capt. Aug. 10, '62; app. lt. col. Nov. 22, '62; wd. May 12, '64, Spottsylvania, Va.; disch. wds., Dec. 5, '64. (Previous service in Eighth and Fifty-eighth Ill. Vols. Rose to rank of capt., was present at the capture of Fort Donnelson and at the battle of Pittsburg Landing, where he was severely wd.) He was in command of the Ninth N. H. in the Wilderness campaign in '64 until the 12th of May, when he was assigned to the command of the Thirty-second Maine Vols., and was wounded, as above.

Belville, Francis. Co. I; age 38; enl. July 14, 62; transf. to I. C. Jan. 20, '64; reenl. Sept. 12, '64; disch. Nov. 17, '65.

Bundy, Alvin A. Co. I; age 31; enl. Dec. 8, '63; disch. disab. June 30, '65, Alexandria, Va.

Chamberlain, Noel Byron. Co. I; age 19; enl. Aug. 7, '62; must. out June 10, '65.

Chase, Alfred. Co. I; age 22; enl. Aug. 18, '62; must. out June 10, '65.

Chase, Charles D. Co. I; age 22; enl. Aug. 7, '62; app. corp.; died, dis., July 20, '63, Clinton, Miss.

Colburn, Eleazer. Co. I; age 23; enl. Dec. 22, '63; wd. Sept. 30, '64, Poplar Springs Church; disch. June 10, '65. See First N. H. V.

Craig, Joseph S. Co. I; age 19; enl. July 24, '62; died, dis., Jan. 7, '64, Paris, Ky.

Darling, Lewis D. Co. I; age 18; enl. Aug. 18, '62; app. corp. July 26, '63; wd. May 31, '64, Tolopotomoy Creek, Va.; wd. July 30, '64, mine explosion, Petersburg, Va.; must. out June 10, '65.

Ellis, John E. Co. I; age 18; enl. Dec. 15, '63; wd. May 12, '64, Spottsylvania, Va.; must. out July 17, '65.

Ellis, Minot. Co. I; age 21; enl. Aug. 7, '62; app. corp. Nov. 1, '64; must. out June 10, '65.

Ellis, Warren R. Co. I; age 22; enl. Aug. 6, '62; wd. Dec. 13, '62, Fredericksburg, Va.; disch. wds. March 5, '63; died, Sept. 3, '65, Keene.

Estey, Lyman E. Co. I; age 18; enl. Dec. 29, '63; wd. Sept. 30, '64, Poplar Springs Church, Va.; disch. Aug. 2, '65, Washington, D. C.

Fellows, Lucian B. Co. I; age 18; enl. July 28, '62; must. out June 10, '65.

Fellows, Truman S. Co. I; age 23; enl. July 9, '62; transf. to I. C. July 3, '63; disch. July 29, '65, Philadelphia.

Flynn, Martin. Co. B; age 27; enl. July 1, '62; killed, June 29, '64, Petersburg, Va.

Foster, Alvin R. Co. I; age 27; cred. Alstead, after the war, res. Keene; enl. Aug. 8, '62; app. sergt.; disch. disab. Aug. 11, '63.

Fox, George D. Co. I; age 19; b. Stoddard; cred. Keene; enl. Aug. 8, '62; killed Sept. 17, '62, Antietam, Md.

French, Stephen S. Co. I; age 19; enl. Dec. 17, '63; wd. June, '64, Petersburg, Va.; disch. wds. July 26, '65. See Sixteenth N. H. V.

Gilmore, George H. Co. I; age 19; enl. Aug. 9, '62; b. Wilton; cred. Keene; app. corp. Feb. 1, '64, sergt. March 1, '64; must. out June 10, '65.

Green, Jacob. Co. I; age 39; app. 1st lieut. Aug. 10, '62; resigned March 8, '64.

Hartwell, William H. Co. I; age 18; b. Langdon; cred. Keene; enl. Aug. 8, '62; app. corp.; app. sergt. May 1, '63; captd. Sept. 30, '64, Poplar Springs Church, Va.; released Feb. 28, '65; disch. June 12, '65, Baltimore, Md.

Hastings, George E. Co. I; age 24; b. Chesterfield; cred. Keene; enl. Aug. 9, '62; disch. disab. Nov. 18, '62.

Heon, Jesse. Co. I; age 19; b. Philadelphia; cred. Keene; enl. June 27, '62; app. corp. Feb. 1, '65; must. out June 10, '65.

Hubbard, Henry E. Co. I; age 25; b. Sullivan; cred. Keene; enl. Aug. 7, '62; app. 1st sergt.; app. 2d lieut. Co. B, Jan. 1, '64; must. out June 10, '65.

Jolly, Isaac. Co. I; age 23; enl. Aug. 2, '62; must. out June 10, '65.

Jolly, Joseph. Co. I; age 33; enl. July 28, '62; wd. Sept. 17, '62, Antietam, Md.; disch. wds. April 15, '63. See V. R. C.

Knight, Charles H. Co. I; age 23; enl. Aug. 8, '62; app. corp.; wd. July 30, '64, mine explosion, Va.; disch. disab. March 28, '65, Manchester.

Leverett, Frank J. Co. I; age 18; enl. Aug. 9, '62; died, dis., Oct. 2, '63, Paris, Ky.

Mason, Moses. Co. I; age 39; b. Westmoreland; cred. Keene; enl. Aug. 8, '62; died, dis., Aug. 9, '63, en route from Vicksburg, Miss.

Mason, Simeon A. Co. I; age 37; b. Westmoreland; cred. Keene; enl. July 21, '62; must. out June 10, '65.

Mathews, James H. Co. I; age 21; enl. Aug. 7, '62; wd. Sept. 30, '64, Poplar Springs Church, Va.; app. corp. May 1, '65; must. out June 10, '65.

McClure, George W. Co. I; age 21; b. Antrim; cred. Keene; enl. Aug. 7, '62; app. corp.; app. sergt. Jan. 1, '63, 1st sergt. Jan. 1, '64; miss. July 30, '64, mine explosion, Va.; returned from miss.; must. out June 10, '65.

Messenger, Edward M. Co. I; age 21; b. Stoddard; cred. Keene; enl. Aug. 8, '62; wd. Sept. 17, '62, Antietam; disch. wds., Dec. 24, '62, Concord.

Metcalf, William F. Co. I; age 22; enl. Aug. 18, '62; must. out June 10, '65.

Moore, James. Unassigned; age 18; enl. Dec. 15, '63; captd. Feb. 27, '64, Cumberland Gap; paroled May 5, '64; died, dis., June 13, '64, Annapolis, Md.

Morris, Edward. Co. I; age 43; b. Canada; cred. Keene; enl. July 29, '62; killed July 30, '64, mine explosion, Petersburg, Va.

Morris, George H. Co. I; age 18; enl. Dec. 18, '63; wd. May 31, '64, Tolopotomoy Creek, Va.; transf. to V. R. C. Feb. 6, '65; disch. June 26, '65, Washington, D. C.

Ormsby, William S. Co. I; age 23; b. Elizabethtown, N. Y.; cred. Keene; enl. Aug. 7, '62; must. out June 10, '65.

Perham, Edmond J. Co. I; age 35; b. Athens, Vt.; cred. Keene; enl. June 9, '62; died, dis., Oct. 26, '62, Weverton, Md.

Perry, S. Horace. Co. I; age 23; enl. Aug. 7, '62; app. sergt.; app. 2d lieut. Co. G, Jan. 1, '63, 1st lieut. Jan. 1, '64; resigned April 20, '64.

Pierce, Joseph W. Co. I; age 27; enl. Aug. 4, '62; disch. disab. May 27, '63, Concord.

Rand, William H. Co. I; age 22; enl. Aug. 5, '62; app. corp., app. sergt. Jan. 1, '64; must. out June 10, '65.

Raymond, William. Co. A; age 21; enl. Dec. 22, '63; must. out July 17, '65.

Ross, William W. Co. I; age 19; enl. July 24, '62; wd. June 21, '64, Petersburg, Va.; disch. wds. Nov. 18, '64, Washington, D. C.

Rugg, Charles E. Co. I; age 18; enl. Aug. 8, '62; app. sergt.; app. Q. M. sergt. Feb. 13, '64; must. out June 10, '65.

Sawyer, Nelson N. Co. I; age 37; app. 2d lieut. Aug. 10, '62; resigned Sept. 29, '62.

Slyfield, James. Co. I; age 18; enl. Aug. 8, '62; must. out June 10, '65.

Sprague, S. Henry. Co. I; age 21; enl. Aug. 5, '62; app. Q. M. sergt. Sept. 27, '62; app. 1st lieut. Co. F, Nov. 13, '62; died, dis., Aug. 18, '63, Cincinnati, O.

Sullivan, Michael. Co. I; age 43; enl. Aug. 6, '62; wd. Sept. 17, '62, Antietam; disch. disab. Feb. 10, '63. See V. R. C.

Taylor, Ransom O. Co. I; age 36; enl. Jan. 20, '64; disch. disab. Oct. 1, '64, Concord.

Towns, Charles E. Co. I; age 23; enl. Aug. 11, '62; died (concussion of the brain), Feb. 20, '65, near Petersburg, Va. See First N. H. V.

Tufts, George. Co. I; age 33; b. Keene, and res. after the war, Keene; cred. Stoddard; enl. Aug. 11, '62; disch. June 27, '65, Annapolis, Md.

Wallace, Samuel J. Unassigned; age 22; enl. Dec. 19, '63; no further record.

Whittle, James C. Co. I; age 40; enl. Dec. 8, '63; disch. disab. June 30, '65, Alexandria, Va.

Wilcox, Charles W. Co. I; age 25; enl. Aug. 5, '62; app. sergt.; app. 2d lieut. Co. F, May 1, '63; captd. May 12, '64, Spottsylvania, Va.; paroled Mar. 5, '65; disch. May 15, '65.

Willson, William O. Co. I; age 33; cred. Alstead; after the war, res. Keene; enl. Aug. 8, '62; transf. to I. C., Sept. 30, '63; disch. Aug. 15, '65, Ft. Monroe, term. exp.

TENTH, ELEVENTH, TWELFTH AND THIRTEENTH REGIMENTS.

No one from Keene joined the Tenth regiment; and the name of but one citizen of Keene is found on the rolls of the Eleventh, and he came to Keene to reside after the war:

Ray, Reuben. Co. F; age 19; res. New London, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 13, '62; wd. May 12, '64, Spottsylvania, Va.; app. sergt.; must. out June 4, '65.

But the Eleventh was one of the regiments that composed the New Hampshire brigade, and the account of its

service in 1864–5 may be found under that head, with the Sixth and the Ninth. In the autumn of 1862 it was with the Ninth corps on its march from Pleasant Valley and in the battle of Fredericksburg, Dec. 13; and in 1863 it was with its corps—in Kentucky in the spring, in the Mississippi campaign in the summer, and in east Tennessee in the fall and winter.

The Twelfth regiment was raised in the eastern part of the state and no enlistments for it were made in Keene; and only one citizen of Keene joined the Thirteenth.

Twitchell, Dr. George B. Field and staff; age 41; app. surg. Sept. 15, '62; resigned March 31, '63, to accept promotion. See miscel. org.

FOURTEENTH REGIMENT.

The Fourteenth regiment was organized at Concord in August and September, 1862, with Robert Wilson of Keene, a brother of Gen. James, colonel; and Tileston A. Barker, of Westmoreland, promoted from captain in the Second New Hampshire Volunteers, lieutenant colonel. Both these officers had been colonels of the Twentieth regiment of New Hampshire militia, had previously commanded the rival light infantry companies of their respective towns, and the spirit of antagonism displayed by them on the muster field had not died out. If they did not see much of war in the service of the United States it was not wanting in their own organization.[1] That circumstance detracted from the efficiency of the regiment in the early part of its service, but the personnel of the rank and file, and of the officers generally, was of the best; and towards the close of its service the discipline and effectiveness of the regiment were excellent. Dr. William H. Thayer, of Keene, was appointed surgeon, and it had a larger number of men from Keene than any other regiment in the service. The Fourteenth left the state in October, and was employed at first in guarding the crossings of the upper Potomac, but in April, 1863, it was ordered to Washington, and for nine months it performed guard and provost duty in the capital, greatly to the satisfaction of the citizens, and winning the commendation of President Lincoln. In the last of February, 1864, it received a furlough

[1] See New Hampshire Sentinel, January 5, 1865.

of two weeks and returned to New Hampshire to perform the service of voting, a duty[1] at that time as important as that of fighting, for nearly all the members voted the Union ticket.

On the 16th of March the Fourteenth again left New Hampshire, and at New York city embarked on the steamer Daniel Webster for the Department of the Gulf, and joined the Nineteenth army corps at New Orleans. In July, however, that corps was ordered north and became a part of Sheridan's Army of the Shenandoah. In this transfer the regiment was divided, six companies under Col. Wilson going to the army of the James and being engaged at Deep Bottom, Va., July 27 and 28; while four companies under Major Gardner proceeded to the Shenandoah valley and were engaged in the battle of Winchester, Aug. 17. The two battalions were reunited Aug. 18, Col. Wilson resigned, and Major Gardner commanded the regiment at the battle of Opequan, Sept. 19, where he was mortally wounded, and the regiment lost heavily. At Fisher's Hill, Sept. 22, and at Cedar Creek, Oct. 19, Capt. F. L. Tolman was in command and the regiment did good service. Adjutant Carroll D. Wright was promoted to colonel Dec. 6, and Capt. Tolman to major. After its campaign in the Shenandoah valley the Fourteenth was sent to the Department of the South, Major Tolman in command, performed provost duty in Georgia, and was mustered out of service at Hilton Head, July 7, 1865.

Following is a list of members of the regiment from Keene, being privates and residents of Keene unless otherwise stated:

Abbott, Warren. Co. B; age 28; res. Charlestown, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 15, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Allen, Calvin, Jr. Co. G; age 27; enl. Dec. 8, '63; must. out July 8, '65.

Baker, Charles W. Unassigned; age 22; enl. April 4, '65, for 1 yr.; disch. May 6, '65.

Balch, Perley S. Co. C; age 37; enl. Aug. 13, '62; transf. to V. R. C. Aug. 30, '64; disch. disab. Oct. 9, '64.

[1] In the elections of 1863 many of the states had gone against the administration. New Hampshire was a close state, and its annual state election, coming in March, was to be the first in the political campaign of 1864. Early in that year President Lincoln sent for Gen. Edward W. Hincks, a volunteer officer from Massachusetts, who was a good public speaker, and said to him: "I want you to go to New Hampshire and take part in the campaign. I regard it as more important to carry this New Hampshire state election than to whip the enemy on any battlefield where he can be reached." (Gen. E. W. Hincks, in a conversation in Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 15, 1888.)

Barden, Hiram, Jr. Co. C; age 25; enl. Aug. 27, '62; transf. to V. R. C. March 15, '65; disch. June 30, 65.

Barrett, William A. Co. G; age 36; enl. Aug. 28, '62; app. wagoner Nov. 1, '63; must. out July 8, '65.

Benton, Frank G. Co. A; age 21; enl. Aug. 29, '62; disch. disab. Dec. 12, '64.

Berry, Ira, Jr. Co. C; age 25; enl. Aug. 29, '62; app. 1st lieut. Oct. 9, '62; app. capt. Co. H, Oct. 1, '63; wd. Sept. 19, '64, Opequan, Va.; must. out July 8, '65. Bvt. major U. S. V. for gallantry in the battle of Opequan.

Blodgett, Edmund. Co. C; age 41; enl. Aug. 12, '62; disch. disab. April 25, '63.

Blodgett, Sylvester. Co. G; age 40; enl. Aug. 30, '62; disch. disab. Sept. 16, '63.

Bolio, Theodore. Co. C; age 44; enl. Aug. 21, '62; disch. disab. Aug. 2, '64.

Britton, Frederick F. Co. F; age 21; res. Keene; cred. Surry; enl. Sept. 1, '62; wd. Sept. 19, '64, Opequan, Va.; disch. July 6, '65.

Britton, George H. Co. A; age 26; b. Keene; cred. Westmoreland; enl. Aug. 8, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Brock, Charles E. Co. A; age 19; enl. Aug. 15, '62; app. corp. July 1, '64; must. out July 8, '65.

Brown, Boardwin. Co. F; age 44; enl. Sept. 1, '62; disch. disab. Jan. 30, '64.

Brown, Charles H. Co. B; age 21; res. Walpole, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 10, '62; app. corp. May 1, '65; must. out July 8, '65.

Burbank, Franklin. Co. C; age 44; res. Keene; cred. Swanzey; enl. Sept. 15, '62; disch. May 6, '65.

Burns, Patrick. Co. G; age 38; enl. Aug. 31, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Burns, Thomas. Co. G; age 18; enl. Dec. 8, '63; must. out July 8, '65.

Byam, Benjamin W. Co. C; age 36; enl. Aug. 16, '62; disch. disab. Feb. 28, '63.

Carroll, George Henry. Co. C; age 27; enl. Aug. 13, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Carter, Solon A. Co. G; age 25; app. capt. Oct. 9, '62; disch. April 17, '65, to accept promotion. See miscel. org.

Casey, John. Co. G; age 26; enl. Aug. 31, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Chapin, Charles A. Co. D; age 21; b. Westmoreland; cred. Keene; enl. March 9, '65, for 1 yr; must. out July 8, '65.

Coates, Darwin C. Co. C; age 36; enl. Aug. 26, '62; transf. to V. R. C. Sept. 30, '64; retransf. to company Dec. 22, '64; must. out July 8, '65.

Cooper, Albert. Co. G; age 18; enl. Aug. 30, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Craig, Allen A. Co. G; age 43; enl. Dec. 26, '63; wd. Sept. 19, '64, Opequan, Va.; must. out July 8, '65. See Second N. H. V.

Cummings, Joseph W. Co. C; age 24; enl. Aug. 27, '62; wd. Sept. 19, '64, Opequan, Va.; must. out July 8, '65.

Davis, Asa W. Co. G; age 36; enl. Aug. 28, '62; app. corp. Oct. 6, '62; reduced to ranks April 21, '64; must. out July 8, '65.

Day, Calvin K. Co. G; age 28; enl. Aug. 27, '62; app. corp. Oct. 6, '62; reduced to ranks July 2, '63; must. out July 8, '65.

Day, George A. Co. F; age 42; enl. Sept. 1, '62; app. principal musc. March 1, '65; must. out July 8, '65.

Doolittle, Joseph S. Co. G; age 27; enl. Aug. 28, '62; wd. Sept. 19, '64, Opequan, Va.; transf. to V. R. C. Jan. 28, '65; disch. wds. July 27, '65.

Drake, William S. Co. G; age 29; enl. Aug. 27, '62; disch. disab. Nov. 23, '63.

Dunn, Noble T. Co. A; age 27; enl. Aug. 16, '62; died, dis., Sept. 8, '64, Keene.

Dyer, Lewis S. D. Co. C; age 43; enl. Dec. 18, '63; deserted.

Ellis, Lyman. Co. G; age 31; enl. Oct. 2, '62; disch. May 26, '65.

Evans, Frank, Jr. Co. G; age 18; enl. Aug. 30, '62; died, dis. March 30, '63, Poolesville, Md.

Gallagher, Francis. Co. C; age 26; enl. Aug. 16, '62; wd. Sept. 19, '64, Opequan, Va.; must. out July 8, '65.

Gilmore, Charles G. Co. C; age 23; res. Swanzey, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 14, '62; app. corp. Jan. 17, '64; must. out July 8, '65.

Gorman, Michael. Co. C; age 26; enl. Sept. 1, '62; disch. disab. Oct. 17, '64, Washington, D. C. See First N. H. V.

Gowen, George M. Co. B; age 21; res. Marlow, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 22, '62; disch. disab. Oct. 8, '63, Washington, D. C.

Graves, Frank B. Co. B; age 18; res. Walpole, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 23, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Hastings, Emery. Co. C; age 44; enl. Aug. 29, '62; disch. disab. July 18, '63, Washington, D. C.

Hastings, John G. Co. E; age 32; enl. Feb. 15, '65, for 1 yr.; must. out July 8, '65.

Healey, Daniel K. Co. C; age 21; res. Swanzey, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 12, '62; app. sergt. Sept. 22, '62; disch. Aug. 31, '63, to accept promotion. See U. S. colored troops.

Hill, Charles H. Co. C; age 31; enl. Sept. 1, '62; disch. disab. Sept. 26, '64, Concord.

Hill, Horace J. Co. G; age 21; enl. Dec. 8, '63; must. out July 8, '65.

Holman, Ira B. Co. C; age 31; enl. Aug. 27, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Houghton, Adelbert A. Co. C; age 18; enl. Aug. 12, '62; must. as musc.; must. out July 8, '65.

Houston, J. Augustine. Co. G; age 27; enl. Aug. 27, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Howard, Ambrose W. Co. C; age 23; enl. Aug. 27, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Howard, George A. Co. D; age 20; b. Nelson; cred. Keene; enl. March 9, '65, for 1 yr.; must. out July 8, '65.

Hurd, Cyrus. Co. G; age 41; enl. Dec. 12, '63; disch. disab. Sept. 20, '64, Concord.

Jenks, J. Henry. Co. C; age 39; enl. Aug. 28, '62; app. sergt. Sept. 22, '62; app. sergt. major Jan. 12, '64; killed Oct. 19, '64, Cedar Creek, Va.

Johnston, Sydney E. Co. C; age 19; enl. Aug. 15, '62; disch. disab. July 20, '63, Washington, D. C.

Jones, Sylvester. Co. D; age 44; enl. Aug. 12, '62; died, dis. March 13, '64, Washington, D. C.

Kehue, George. Co. G; age 38; enl. Aug. 30, '62; app. corp.; must. out June 8, '65.

Keith, Fay. Co. A; age 44; b. Keene; res. Westmoreland; enl. Aug. 13, '62; died, dis. Sept. 9, '64.

Kelleher, Timothy. Co. G; age 33; enl. Dec. 8, '63; wd. and captd. Sept. 19, '64, Opequan, Va.; paroled Oct. 2, '64; must. out July 8, '65.

Kenion, David Y. Co. B; age 26; res. Walpole, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 27, '62; wd. Sept. 19, '64, Opequan, Va.; must. out July 8, '65.

Kingsbury, Henry. Co. C; age 37; enl. Feb. 16, '65, for 1 yr.; must. out July 8, '65.

Kinson, John Q. Co. G; age 18; res. Stoddard, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 14, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Knowlton, Charles. Co. A; age 24; enl. Sept. 1, '62; died, dis., Jan. 20, '63, Poolesville, Md.

Leach, James. Co. C; age 27; enl. Aug. 18, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Leonard, Henry O. Co. E; age 26; enl. Feb. 16, '65, for 1 yr.; must. out July 8, '65.

Lettenmayer, Otto. Co. G; age 30; enl. Aug. 30, '62; disch. disab. Oct. 13, '63, Washington, D. C.

Levoy, Henry E. Co. G; age 18; enl. Dec. 12, '63; disch. July 8, 65.

Lewis, William H. Co. G; age 29; enl. Aug. 29, '62; disch. May 12, '65.

Lyford, Jeremiah, Jr. Co. C; age 36; enl. Aug. 26, '62; must. in as 1st sergt.; reduced to ranks and app. sergt. same day, May 1, '64; must. out July 8, '65.

Mangan, Dennis. Co. H; age 23; enl. July 28, '64; must. out July 8, '65.

Marvin, Edwin. Co. G; age 21; enl. Sept. 3, '62; died, dis., Dec. 15, '62, Offutt's Cross Roads, Md.

Mitchell, John E. Co. A; age 34; enl. Dec. 8, '63; must. out July 8, '65. See Sixth N. H. V.

Nims, George H. Co. F; age 24; res. Winchester, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 13, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

O'Brien, William D. Co. G; age 20; enl. Dec. 8, '63; must. out July 8, '65.

Parker, John A. Co. C; age 36; enl. Aug. 28, '62; disch. June 21, '65.

Parker, Luther M. Co. C; age 41; enl. Aug. 7, '62; app. sergt. Nov. 1, '64; died, dis., June 30, '65, Savannah, Ga.

Parker, William H. Co. G; age 18; enl. Sept. 4, '62; transf. to V. R. C. July 1, '64; disch. April 28, '65, to accept promotion. See Second N. H. V. and miscel. org.

Putnam, Edwin F. Co. G; age 31; enl. Aug. 28, '62; transf. to V. R. C. Jan. 1, 65; disch. June 30, '65, Washington, D. C.

Reynolds, Eli W. Co. C; age 44; res. Swanzey, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 15, '62; must. in as wagoner; disch. disab. Aug. 12, '63, Washington, D. C.

Richardson, David L. Co. A; age 28; enl. Sept. 13, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Richardson, George D. Non-com. staff; age 21; enl. Oct. 1, '62; must. in as hosp. steward; app. 1st lieut. Co. B Jan. 4, '65; must. out July 8, '65.

Riley, Martin. Co. G; age 23; enl. Aug. 31, '62; disch. June 8, '65.

Riley, Michael. Co. G; age 35; enl. Aug. 31, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Roundy, Franklin W. Co. B; age 18; res. Walpole, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 30, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Rugg, Sewall F. Co. E; age 26; enl. Feb. 17, '65, for 1 yr.; must. out July 8, '65.

Russell, James W. Co. G; age 27; enl. Aug. 28, '62; must. in as sergt.; app. com. sergt. Nov. 30, '64, 2d lieut. Co. E, Jan. 4, '65; app. 1st lieut. Co. I, Feb. 17, '65, not must.; must. out July 8, '65.

Ryan, John. Co. G; age 25; enl. Aug. 12, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Ryan, William. Unassigned; age 21; b. Keene; cred. Gilmanton; enl. Jan. 19, '64; reported as sent to regt; no farther record.

Sebastian, William, Jr. Co. C; age 25; res. Swanzey, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 12, '62; must. in as corp.; reduced to the ranks March 1, '65; must. out July 8, '65.

Slyfield, Daniel. Co. C; age 20; enl. Aug. 26, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Slyfield, Franklin. Co. C; age 34; enl. Aug. 18, '62; disch. July 8, '65.

Smith, Marcus M. Co. G; age 22; enl. Aug. 29, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Smith, Royal W. Co. G; age 26; enl. Aug. 29, '62; disch. disab. June 5, '65, Concord.

Smith, Samuel M. Co. G; age 29; enl. Dec. 18, '63; disch. March 10, '64, to accept promotion. See Third N. H. V., and U. S. colored troops.

Smith, William. Co. C; age 22; enl. Aug. 26, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Spaulding, Dauphin, 2d. Co. C; age 35; enl. Aug. 18, '62; died, dis. Feb. 7, '64, Washington, D. C.

Staples, Henry M. Co. A; age 19; enl. Aug. 14, '62; must. as musc.; app. principal musc. Oct. 30, '64; must. out July 8, '65.

Steck, Friedrick. Co. G; age 30; enl. Aug. 11, '62; disch. to date July 8, '65, Savannah, Ga. See First N. H. V.

Stone, William W. Co. C; age 26; b. Keene; res. Swanzey, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 18, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Sturtevant, John W. Co. G; age 22; enl. Aug. 31, '62; must. as sergt.; app. 1st sergt. May 1, '63, 2d lieut. Oct. 17, '63, 1st lieut. Jan. 1, '64; wd. twice Sept. 19, '64, Opequan, Va.; app. capt. Jan. 4, '65; disch. disab. Jan. 18, '65, before being must. as capt.; restored to command and must. as capt. to date Feb. 18, '65; must. out July 8, '65.

Sullivan, Kerry. Co. G; age 18; enl. Dec. 8, '63; app. 2d lieut. Co. H, Sept. 24, '64; not must.; disch. as private Aug. 19, '65.

Sumner, David. Co. G; age 44; enl. Aug. 30, '62; disch. disab. July 20, '63, Washington, D. C. See Second N. H. V.

Thayer, William H. Field and staff; age 40; app. surg. Sept. 19, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Thompson, Cyrus H. Co. C; age 42; enl. Aug. 28, '62; disch. May 12, '63, Washington, D. C.

Totten, James. Co. C; age 33; res. Marlboro; cred. Keene; enl. Aug. 30, '62; must. out July 8, '65. See First N. H. V.

Wardwell, George O. Co. A; age 18; res. Sullivan, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 16, '62; app. corp. Jan. 1, '65; must. out July 8, '65.

Warn, William W. Co. B; age 28; enl. Dec. 8, '63; must. out July 8, '65.

Webster, Charles F. Co. G; age 26; res. Jaffrey, after the war, Keene; app. 1st lieut. Oct. 9, '62; app. Q. M. Oct. 16, '63; must. out July 8, '65.

Wetherbee, Edward H. Co. B; age 18; enl. Dec. 8, '63; must. out July 8, '65.

Wheeler, Charles W. Co. F; age 18; enl. Sept. 1, '62; transf. to Co. C, Nov. 1, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Whitney, Leonard F. Co. D; age 18; b. Nelson, cred. Keene; enl. March 9, '65, for 1 yr.; must. out July 8, '65.

Whittemore, Curtis A. Co. A; age 18; res. Keene; cred. Troy; enl. Aug. 15, '62; must. out July 8, '65.

Willard, Lucius S. Co. G; age 19; enl. Aug. 28, '62; disch. June 28, '65.

Wilson, Jesse. Co. F; age 44; res. Stoddard, cred. Keene; enl. Sept. 1, '62; disch. disab. Oct. 20, '63, Washington, D. C. See Eighth N. H. V. and V. R. C.

Wilson, Robert. Field and staff; age 51; app. col. Sept. 19, '62; disch. Sept. 6, '64.

Wood, Henry A. Co. F; age 18; res. Winchester, after the war, Keene; enl. Aug. 12, '62; app. corp. Oct. 1, '64; must. out July 8, '65.

Woodward, John A. Co. G; age 21; res. Surry, cred. Keene; enl. Aug. 27, '62; must. as corp.; died, dis., Aug. 18, '64, New York city.

Wright, Daniel. Co. G; age 33; enl. Dec. 26, '63; must. out July 8, '65. See Second N. H. V.

FIFTEENTH, SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH REGIMENTS.

The Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Seventeenth New Hampshire Volunteers were nine months regiments, organized in the fall of 1862, but no citizen of Keene enlisted in either of them except Stephen H. French, who was mustered into the Sixteenth Nov. 13, '62; mustered out Aug. 20, '63, and enlisted in the Ninth New Hampshire Volunteers.

TOWN AFFAIRS.

At the annual meeting in 1863 the town voted to appropriate $5,500 to aid the families of volunteers. It was also:

(Art. 21) "Voted. To advise the Selectmen to sell the timber suitable for sale on the ministerial lot in Keene, and add the proceeds thereof to the Ministerial Fund."

(Art. 22) "Voted. To instruct the Selectmen to prevent the cutting of wood on said lot until the same is of suitable size for use."

(Art. 23) "Voted. To advise the Selectmen to divide and pay over in equal sums to the several clergymen residing and officiating in town, the interest and annual income of the Ministerial Fund during the time they suspend the cutting of wood on said lot."

In 1863 the government resorted to a draft to obtain the number of men needed for its service. The number enrolled for that purpose in Keene, of the first class, was 410; of the second class, 212. The draft rendezvous for the Third New Hampshire congressional district was at

West Lebanon, and the drawing was made under the direction of the officers of the draft, by Rev. Jacob Scales, of Plainfield, seventy-five years old, blindfolded. Four hundred and ten names of citizens of Keene were put in the box, and 123 were drawn out. Their names appear in the New Hampshire Sentinel of Sept. 10 of that year. Some were rejected on physical examination, and the names of those actually liable to go appear in the Sentinel of Oct. 15, 1863. A few went into the service, and their names appear in the records of their respective regiments, but most of them hired substitutes. A second call for drafted men came in November, and Keene's quota was fifty-eight men. On the 1st of September the town voted to the drafted men or their substitutes $300 each, and to their families the same as the volunteers; and on the 26th the selectmen were authorized to borrow money for those purposes, not to exceed $25,000. A town meeting on the 25th of November:

"Voted That the town make an effort to fill the quota of the town by enlistments."

"Voted That the Selectmen of the town of Keene be authorized to fill our present town quota to the best advantage they can by advancing the State and National bounties and a Town bounty of to citizens of the town three hundred dollars, and a town bounty not exceeding three hundred dollars, to persons not citizens of the town."

It was also voted to authorize the selectmen to borrow money for those purposes, not to exceed $45,000; and in February following $8,000 were added to that sum.

At the annual town meeting in 1864, the vote for the Union candidates in the state was increased in Keene by 122 over that of the preceding year. A small part of this increase was caused by the growth of population in the town. Five representatives were sent to the legislature, an increase of one in seven years. The sum of $3,000 was appropriated to aid the "wives, children and parents," of volunteers; and $5,000 were raised towards paying the town debts and interest.

On the 25th of March, the boiler in the chair manufactory of Osborne & Hale on Mechanic street exploded,

injuring twelve persons, seven of them severely, two of whom, William H. Lang and Salmon G. Metcalf, died. Nims & Crossfield were making sash, doors and blinds in the same buildings. The damage to the property was estimated at $10,000 to $15,000.

In June the town voted a bounty of $400 to each volunteer or enrolled person who should furnish a substitute to be credited on the quota of the town; and to borrow a sum not exceeding $18,000 for that purpose. In August, under the call of President Lincoln for 500,000 men, it voted $300 bounty to volunteers for one year, $600 to those for two years, and $900 to those for three years; and to borrow for that purpose a sum not exceeding $18,000. On the 29th of the same month $600 were voted to volunteers for one year, $700 to those for two years, and $900 to those for three years, to complete the quota of the town; and $10,000 were raised and appropriated for that purpose. On the 15th of September the town voted to pay $150 to each citizen of Keene who had been in the naval service and had "been counted on the present quota for the call for five hundred thousand men;" and on the 10th of December the selectmen were authorized to borrow a sum not exceeding $30,000 to carry out the votes of the town for bounties.

At the presidential election in November, Keene cast 652 votes for the Lincoln electors to 317 for those of the opposition; and on the 17th, 350 Union men sat down to a supper at the Cheshire House in thanksgiving for the political victory.

The hopes and expectations raised by the victories of Gettysburg and Vicksburg in 1863 had been seriously diminished by repeated calls for more troops, by the resort to a draft, and by the defeat at Chickamauga in September of that year. Recruiting offices for volunteers for the regiments already in the field had been kept active in Keene, and early in 1864 Thomas C. Edwards opened one for the New Hampshire Volunteer Cavalry; and there were others for the 18th New Hampshire Volunteers and other organizations.

EIGHTEENTH REGIMENT.

The Eighteenth regiment of volunteers was raised in the summer of 1864 under the call of the president for volunteers for one year. In October, six companies (A to F) joined the army at City Point, Va. In February and March following, three companies (G, H and I) joined the first detachment in time to take part in the closing scenes of the war. The nine companies were present at the recapture of Fort Steadman, in March, 1865, and were stationed at that fort until April 3, when the battalion entered Petersburg with the army. It was afterwards organized as a regiment, with Thomas L. Livermore promoted from major of the Fifth regiment, colonel; performed provost duty at Washington and vicinity, and was mustered out in June and July, 1865.

Following are the members of this regiment from Keene, who may be understood to be privates unless otherwise stated:

Amadon, Frank E. Co. I; age 18; cred. Troy; res. after the war, Keene; enl. March 1, '65, for 1 yr.; must. out July 29, '65.

Beverstock, Daniel O. Co. F; age 22; res. Nelson, after the war, Keene; enl. Sept. 27, '64, for 1 yr.; must. as sergt.; must. out June 10, '65. See Sixteenth N. H. V.

Carroll, Joseph A. Co. A; age 19; enl. Sept. 5, '64, for 1 yr.; must. out June 10, '65.

Dodge, Fred. Co. D; age 21; enl. Sept. 1, '64, for 1 yr.; disch. June 30, '65.

Gould, Nathan. Co. A; age 44; cred. Hinsdale; res. after the war, Keene; enl. Sept. 9, '64, for 1 yr.; must. out June 10, '65.

Howard, William H. Co. A; age 20; enl. Sept. 5, '64, for 1 yr.; must. out June 10, '65.

Sawyer, Charles C. Co. A; age 18; enl. Sept. 5, '64, for 1 yr.; must. out June 10, '65.

Ward, Richard W. Co. B; age 19; res. Lebanon, after the war, Keene; enl. Sept. 13, '64, for 1 yr.; must. out June 10, '65.

FIRST CAVALRY.

New Hampshire had furnished, in 1861, four companies—I, K, L and M—of the First New England (Rhode Island) Volunteer Cavalry. In February, 1864, those companies returned to Concord to recruit for a regiment to be named the First New Hampshire Volunteer Cavalry. Companies A, B and C were soon raised and the two

battalions of seven companies proceeded to Washington in April, joined the Army of the Potomac, and after participating as infantry in engagements at Hanover Court House and Cold Harbor, were mounted and assigned to the Third division of the cavalry corps. After being engaged in the battle of White Oak Swamp, June 13, they went with their division on "Wilson's raid," were engaged with the enemy each day for seven days—losing seventy-one men killed, wounded and captured—and assisted in destroying seventy-five miles of railroad and large quantities of cotton and tobacco. In August the two battalions were sent to the Shenandoah valley. In the meantime the other five companies—D, E, F, G and H—were recruited in New Hampshire and went to the front towards the last of August. John L. Thompson was appointed colonel of the regiment, and the First and Second battalions served through Sheridan's campaign in the valley, but the Third battalion saw very little service. The regiment was mustered out July 15, 1865.

Following are the records of Keene men, being privates and residents of Keene unless otherwise stated:

Bailey, George. Co. C; age 25; res. Keene; cred. Roxbury; enl. April 5, '64; app. corp.; sergt. July 1, '64; must. out July 15, '65.

Dinsmoor, George R. Field and staff; age 24; app. assist. surg. March 13, '65, not must. See miscel. org.

Draper, Frank. Co. K; age 22; enl. Feb. 23, '64; must. out July 15, '65.

Edwards, Thomas C. Co. I; age 20; app. 2d lieut. March 16, '64, 1st lieut. Feb. 23, '65; must. out July 15, '65.

Ellis, Lewis. Co K; age 18; enl. March 4, '64; must. out July 15, '65.

Estabrook, Aaron G. Co. D; age 37; b. Keene; res. Concord; enl. Aug. 17, '64; app. sergt.; disch. May 20, '65. See Eighth N. H. V.

Fifield, Edwin F. Co. M; age 18; enl. Feb. 23, '64; must. out July 15, '65.

Griffith, Joseph E. Co. K; age 19; enl. Feb. 23, '64; wd. Sept. 22, '64, Milford, Va.; app. corp. April 1, '65; must. out July 15, '65.

Hunt, Ferdinand K. Co. F; age 23; enl. March 7, '65, for 1 yr.; app. corp.; must. out July 15, '65.

Kimball, Samuel H. Co. C; age 18; res. Hinsdale, after the war, Keene; enl. March 31, '64; disch. June 5, '65.

Nash, Eugene P. Co. C; age 19; res. Gilsum, after the war, Keene; enl. April 9, '64; must. out July 15, '65.

Safford, Leavitt. Co. F; age 20; res. Chesterfield, after the war, Keene; enl. March 16, '65, for 1 yr.; must. out July 15, '65.

Vanness, Joseph. Co. K; age 40; enl. Feb. 29, '64; app. corp.; must. out July 15, '65.

Wardwell, Olin N. Co. F; age 19; b. Nelson; res. Keene; enl. March 8, '65, for 1 yr.; must. out July 15, '65.

Willard, W. Henry. Co. K; age 18; enl. Feb. 27, '64; captd. Dec. 21, '64, Lacey's Springs, Va.; paroled Feb. 22, '65; died, dis. March 31, '65, Annapolis, Md.

Yardley, Manley R. Co. K; age 21; b. Nelson; cred. Keene; enl. Feb. 23, '64; wd. June 13, '64, White Oak Swamp, Va.; app. bugler, Jan. 1, '65; must. out July 15, '65.

FIRST HEAVY ARTILLERY.

Two companies of heavy artillery were organized in New Hampshire in 1863, and served at Fort Constitution and Kittery Point. In the summer of 1864 a regiment of twelve companies of that arm was authorized to be raised in the state, of which those two companies became a part. That regiment was employed in the defences of Washington, and was mustered out June 15, 1865. Seven men from Keene served in its ranks:

Garfield, William A. Co. B; age 25; enl. Aug. 29, '63; disch. disab. Sept. 29, '64, Concord.

Howard, Austin E. Co. B; age 29; enl. Aug. 13, '63; must. as sergt.; app. 2d lieut. July 25, '65, not must.; must. out Sept. 11, '65.

Howard, Walter. Co. H; age 18; enl. Sept. 5, '64, for 1 yr.; must. out June 15, '65.

Kingsbury, Edward A. Co. H; age 25; res. Surry, after the war, Keene; enl. Sept. 2, '64, for 1 yr.; app. corp.; must. out June 15, '65. See Sixth N. H. V.

Nims, Samuel. Co. H; age 27; b. Sullivan; cred. Newport; res. after the war, Keene; enl. Sept. 4, '64, for 1 yr.; app. hospital steward Nov. 9, '64; must. out June 15, '65.

Parker, Clinton J. Co. H; age 18; b. Nelson; cred. Keene; enl. Aug. 31, '64, for 1 yr.; must. out June 15, '65.

Tuttle, Norman A. Co. B; age 29; enl. Aug. 13, '63; must. as sergt.; app. sergt. major Nov. 14, '64; must. out June 15, '65.

SHARPSHOOTERS.

Three men from Keene enlisted in Col. Berdan's regiment of sharpshooters:

Kingman, Albert H. Age 27; enl. Aug. 28, '61; must. out Sept. 9, '64.

Kingsbury, Reuel H. Age 29; enl. Aug. 30, '61; disch. disab. Dec. 24, '62, Falmouth, Va.

Nye, Charles H. Age 24; enl. Aug. 28, '61; app. corp.; app. sergt. Jan. 1, '63; disch. Sept. 8, '64, near Petersburg, Va., term exp.

UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS.

Three men from Keene held commissions in the United States colored troops:

Healey, Daniel K. From Fourteenth N. H. V.; Sixth Infantry; app. 2d lieut. Aug. 28, '63, 1st. lieut. Oct. 13, '64; wd. Feb. 11, '65, near Fort Fisher, N. C.; disch. Nov. 17, '65.

Hurd, Warren H. From Second N. H. V.; Co. A, Twenty-third Infantry; must. in as 1st lieut. Dec. 18, '63, capt. Co. H., Aug. 9, '64; must. out Nov. 30, '65.

Smith, Samuel M. From Fourteenth N. H. V.; age 29; app. capt. Co. H, Thirty-second Infantry March 18, '64; must. out Aug. 22, '65. See Third N. H. V.

VETERAN RESERVE CORPS.

Early in 1863 an "Invalid Corps" was organized by the war department—the name afterward changed to "Veteran Reserve Corps"—consisting of officers and men who had been discharged on account of wounds or sickness and desired to reënter the service. The more able-bodied and effective ones were employed in guard and provost duty; those more enfeebled in hospitals, as cooks, nurses and orderlies. The names of those from Keene are given below, being privates and residents of Keene unless otherwise stated:

Britton, John L. From Second N. H. V.; res. after the war, Keene and Surry; enl. Dec. 15, '63; disch. disab. May 27, '65, Concord.

Carroll, Thomas. From Sixth N. H. V.; enl. Dec. 16, '63; disch. disab. Oct. 26, '64, Washington, D. C.

Clement, Benjamin F. From Sixth N. H. V.; enl. Sept. 2, '64; disch. disab. Dec. 20, '64.

Crown, Andrew J. From Fifth N. H. V.; enl. Dec. 11, '63; disch. Nov. 13, '65, Concord.

Dunlap, Whitney. From Second N. H. V.; enl. Dec. 22, '63; disch. disab. June 3, '64, Concord.

Heaton, George S. From Second N. H. V.; enl. Dec. 11, '63; disch. disab. Nov. 28, '64, Concord.

Houghton, Abel. From Fifth N. H. V.; enl. Dec. 22, '63; disch. disab. July 24, '65, Washington, D. C.

Jolley, Joseph. From Ninth N. H. V.; enl. Dec. 11, '63; disch. disab. Oct. 21, '64, Concord.

Pressler, Christian. From Second N. H. V.; enl. Dec. 11, '63; app. corp. Dec. 16, '64; app. sergt. May 2, '65; disch. Nov. 13, '65, Concord.

Rahn, William. From Sixth N. H. V.; enl. Dec. 23, '63; disch. Nov. 15, '65, Boston.

Smith, James H. From Sixth N. H. V.; enl. Sept. 2, '64; disch. Nov. 14, '65, Washington, D. C.

Starkey, Joseph S. From Sixth N. H. V.; enl. Dec. 11, '63; disch. disab. May 16, '65, Concord.

Sumner, Alonzo D. From Second N. H. V.; enl. Dec. 31, '63; disch. disab. May 16, '65, Concord.

Thompson, Henry A. From Second N. H. V.; enl. Dec. 11, '63; app. corp.; disch. Nov. 13, '65.

White, Shubael. From Second and Sixth N. H. V.; enl. Dec. 29, '63; disch. disab. Oct. 1, '64, Concord.

UNITED STATES NAVY.

Eleven men from Keene served in the United States navy, as follows:

Bates, Frederick W. Age 19; enl. Aug. 9, '62, for 1 yr., as landsman; served on U. S. ships Ohio, Princeton, Juniata and Hendrick Hudson, disch. Sept. 2, '63, term exp.

Bates, Frederick W. Age 20; enl. Sept. 2, '64, for 1 yr., as landsman; served on U. S. ships Vandalia, Beauregard and Somerset; disch., reduction of naval force, June 27, '65.

Cawley, George. Age 21; b. Keene; enl. at Boston, May 11, '61, for 1 yr., as landsman; served on U. S. ships Ohio, Massachusetts and Mississippi, where he last appears on roll Mar. 15, '63.

Darling, J. Homer. App. act. asst. surg. Dec. 4, '63; served on U. S. ships Ohio, Clyde and Pursuit; disch. Dec. 12, '65. See miscel. org.

Drummer, Charles H. Age 23; enl. Aug. 9, '62, for 1 yr., as landsman; served on U. S. ships Ohio and Housatonic; disch. disab. Sept. 21, '63. See First and Fourth N. H. V.

Gilson, Edward. Age 35; b. Keene; enl. at Boston, Jan. 13, '62, as seaman, for 2 yrs.; served on U. S. ships Ohio and Kearsarge; disch. Jan. 26, '63, from the Kearsarge.

Gregory, Frank. Age 30; b. Keene; enl. at Chicago, Dec. 15, '62, for 1 yr., as hospital steward; served on U. S. ship Curlew; disch. disab. Sept. 1, '63.

Hayes, Joseph R. Age 19; b. Maine; cred. Keene; enl. Aug. 10, '64, for 1 yr., as landsman; served on U. S. ships North Carolina and Fort Jackson; disch. Aug. 18, '64. See Fourteenth N. H. V. and miscel. org.

Hunt, Ferdinand K. Age 21; enl. Aug. 9, '62, for 1 yr., as landsman; served on U. S. ships Ohio and Mohican; disch. May 11, '64, term exp. See First N. H. Cav.

Kellogg, James B. Age 22; enl. Aug. 23, '62, for 1 yr., as landsman; served on U. S. ships Ohio, Princeton and Mohican; disch. May 11, '64, term exp.

Lang, William H. Age 21; enl. Aug. 9, '62, for 1 yr., as landsman; served on U. S. ships Ohio and Housatonic; disch. Sept. 17, '63; died, at Keene, March 25, '64.

Mason, Andrew R. Age 28; enl. Sept. 27, '62, for 1 yr., as landsman; served on U. S. ships Ohio and San Jacinto; disch. Feb. 6, '64, term exp.

Prentiss, George A. Regular officer. B. Keene; res. Keene; app. midshipman March 21, '25; passed midshipman June 4, '31; lieut. Feb. 9, '37; commander Sept. 14, '55; retired Oct. 24, '64; app. commodore; retired Sept. 26, '66; died April 8, '68, in South Carolina.

Sebastian, Samuel. Age 23; b. Keene; enl. at Boston, Aug. 9, '62, for 1 yr., as landsman; served on U. S. ships Ohio and Mohican; disch. May 14, '64, term exp.

MISCELLANEOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

The names of citizens of Keene who served in various New Hampshire organizations not already mentioned, or in those of other states, or the United States, and those

who rose to higher than regimental rank, are as follows, being privates and residents of Keene unless otherwise stated:

Borden, Augustin. Co. F; Fifty-seventh Mass. Inf.; age 18; res. Keene; cred. Windsor, Mass.; enl. March 18, '64, for 3 yrs.; wd.; must. out July 30, '65.

Boyle, George A. Co. C, First R. I. Light Art.; age 29; enl. Aug. 25, '61, for 3 yrs.; must. as artificer; disch. Aug. 27, '64.

Cady, Albemarle. Sixth Inf. U. S. army; b. Keene, 1809; res. New Hampshire; cadet, West Point Military Academy, July 1, 1825; app. 2d lieut. July 1, '29, 1st lieut. Dec. 31, '36, capt. July 7, '38, bvt. major Sept. 8, '47, for gallant and meritorious service in the battle of Molino del Rey; app. major Sixth Inf. Jan. 27, '53, lieut. col. Seventh Inf. June 6, '61, col. Eighth Inf. Oct. 20, '63; retired May 18, '64; bvt. brig. gen. U. S. army March 13, '65, for long and faithful service in the army. (Died Mar. 14, '88, New Haven, Ct.)

Campbell, James. Co. H, Eighth Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 19; enl. July 16, '64, for 100 days; must. out Nov. 10, '64.

Carlin, Thomas P Twelfth Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 22; b. Keene; res. Keene; cred. Brookline, Mass.; enl. Sept. 25, '63; must. out June 29, '65.

Carter, Solon A. U. S. Vols.; b. Leominster, Mass.; res. Keene; age 27; app. capt., assistant adjutant general, July 15, '64; resigned July 3, '65; bvt. major and lt. col. to date March 13, '65, for gallant and meritorious services during the war. See Fourteenth N. H. V.

Clapp, William M. Co. G, Fifth Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 26; res. Marlborough, Mass., after the war Keene; enl. April 19, '61, for 3 mos.; must. out July 31, '61, term exp.

Cross, Charles R. R. I. Co., First New Eng. Cav.; age 23; enl. Dec. 11, '61, for 3 yrs.; app. corp.; captd. June 18, '63; exch.; reenl. Jan 5, '64; must. out Aug. 3, '65.

Darling, J. Homer. Field and staff; Fifty-first Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 24; res. Rindge, after the war, Keene; app. assistant surg. Nov. 4, '62; must. in for 9 mos.; must. out July 27, '63. See U. S. navy.

Dickinson, Elmer F. Twenty-third Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 21; b. Keene; res. Swanzey; enl. July 28, '62, for 3 yrs; app. corp.; wd. May 16, '64; died, wds. June 18, '64, New York.

Dickinson, James W. Twenty-third Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 16; b. Keene; res. Swanzey; enl. for 3 yrs.; must. in July 30, '62; disch. disab. May 28, '63.

Dinsmoor, George R. Field and staff; Twentieth Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 24; app. assist. surg. March 31, '65; disch. July 15, '65. See First N. H. Cav.

Farwell, Miles. Field and staff; Sixty-first Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 34; app. Q. M. Sept. 22, '64; transf. to Co. D, as 1st lieut.; to Co. E; must. out June 4, '65.

Fowler, Eugene A. Eighth Mass. Vol. Inf; age 19; enl. July 15, '64; must. out Nov. 10, '64.

Griffin, Simon G. U. S. V.; age 39; res. Concord, after the war, Keene; app. brig. gen. May 12, '64, bvt. maj. gen. April 2, '65, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the assault from Fort Sedgwick, Va.; must. out Aug. 24, '65. See Second and Sixth N. H. V.

Handy, George E. First Inf. U. S. Vols; age 20; app. 2d lieut. Aug. 28, '64; must. out May 10, '66. See Fifth N. H. V.

Hatch, Frank E. Co. A, Fifteenth Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 18; enl. July 30, '61, for 3 yrs.; transf. to I. C. Feb. 15, '64; no further record.

Hayes, Joseph R. Co. H, Eleventh Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 18; enl. Sept. 1, '61, for 3 yrs.; captd. Feb. '62; paroled; disch. May 22, '62; supposed identical with Joseph B. Hayes, Fourteenth N. H. V. See U. S. navy.

Henry, James, Jr. Co. G, First R. I. Vol. Inf.; age 25; enl. April 17, '61, for 3 mos.; app. sergt.; must. out Aug. 2, '61, term exp.

Holmes, George. Co. B, Twenty-eighth Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 21; enl. March 15, '64, for 3 yrs.; reported on roll June 30, '65, as absent sick since April 30, '64; no further record.

Kidder, James F. Co. E, Thirtieth Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 24; enl. Oct. 7, '61, for 3 yrs.; must. in as sergt.; wd. July 13, '63; reenl. Jan. 1, '64, cred. Boston, Mass.; app. 1st sergt. Jan. 1, '64; wd. Oct. 24, '64; app. com. sergt. March 20, '65, 2d lieut. April 2, '65, 1st lieut. Jan. 25, '66; must. out July 5, '66.

Lamson, John L. Co. I, Twenty-fifth Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 43; enl. Oct. 2, '61, for 3 yrs.; died June 1, '62, Newberne, N. C.

O'Brien, James, Jr. Co. H, Twenty-third Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 19; enl. July 18, '62, for 3 yrs.; wd. Dec. 16, '62; disch. disab. April 15, '63.

O'Brien, John. Co. I, Twenty-eighth Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 19; enl. Oct. 13, '61, for 3 yrs.; wd. June 16, '62; disch. disab. Jan. 24, '63. See Fourteenth N. H. V.

Parker, William H. Co. I, Sixth U. S. Vol. Inf.; age 20; app. 2d lieut. April 23, '65, bvt. 1st lieut.; disch. Oct. 15, '66. See Second and Fourteenth N. H. V.

Rines, George W. Co. D, Tenth Vt. Vols.; age 24; enl. July 14, '62; must. as sergt.; reduced to the ranks Jan. 17, '63; transf. to I. C. Sept. 1, '62; disch. July 12, '65. See First N. H. V.

Robbins, Isaiah, Jr. Read's Co. Third Mass. Cav.; age 22; enl. Sept. 27, '61, for 3 yrs.; must. as corp.; disch. disab. July 15, '62, New Orleans. See Fifth N. H. V.

Twitchell, George B. U. S. V.; app. major and surgeon Jan. 7, '63; disch. Oct. 15, '63. See Thirteenth N. H. V.

Wheeler, Solon. Co. I, Twenty-fifth Mass. Vol. Inf.; age 18; enl. Oct. 1, '61, for 3 yrs.; reenl. Dec. 17, '63; cred. Berlin, Mass.; must. out July 13, '65.

The military records, so far as can be ascertained, of natives of Keene, or residents of the town in early life, who served in organizations of other states and whose names are not on New Hampshire rolls, are as follows:

Briggs, Joseph W. Born in Keene, in business here when a young man; res. Chicago, Ill.

Burt, William H. Admitted to practice as a lawyer in Keene, 1855; res. St. Paul, Minn.; enl. Aug. 7, '62, in Seventh Minn. Vol. Inf.; app. capt. Aug. 21, '62; app. major Nov. 3, '63; served in the Southwest, in the Sixteenth corps; must. out Aug. 16, '65.

Dean, Bradley. Born in Keene, 1840; res. Boston; enl. May, '62, in Thirty-third Mass. Vol. Inf.; app. 1st lieut. July 1, '62; transf. to Forty-first Mass. Inf. Nov. 27, '62; sent to New Orleans;—regt. changed to Third Mass. Cavalry June 17, '63;—app. capt. Co. L Sept. 1, '63; wd. sev., Port Hudson; joined Sheridan's army in Shenandoah valley in 1864; wd. sev., Cedar Creek; must. out Dec. 27, '64, Boston, Mass.

The military records, so far as can be ascertained, of those who are at present or have for many years been

citizens of Keene, who served in organizations of other states, or of the United States, and whose names do not appear on the New Hampshire rolls, are as follows:

Adams, William H.; Sixteenth Vt. Inf.—Aiken, Enoch; First Vt. Cav. —Baker, Edward; Eleventh Vt. Inf.—Banyea, Lewis; Fifth Vt. Inf.— Bissell, Emerson E.; Fifty-third Mass. Inf.—Bouvier, Peter; Fifth Vt. Inf. —Bryant, Calvin R.; Twenty-seventh Mass. Inf.—Casey, John; Seventh Vt. Inf.—Chandler, William B.; Third Vt. Inf.—Chandler, Wilbur F.; Fifteenth Vt. Inf.—Clark, M. V. B.; Sixteenth Vt. Inf.; enl. Aug. 12, '62; app. sergt.; prom. to 1st sergt. March 1, '63; must. out Sept. 10, '63.— Collins, William L.; Sixteenth N. Y. H. Art.—Crocker, George H.; Twenty-ninth U. S. H. Art.—Darling, La Forrest C.; Twelfth Vt. Inf.— Derby, Webster D.; Second Vt. Inf.—Dickinson, Daniel; Fifteenth Mass. Inf.—Dow, George C.; Fifth Vt. Inf.—Edson, Albert A.; Second Mass. H. Art.—Foskett, Liberty W.; Thirty-sixth Mass. Inf.; enl. Aug. 2, '62; age 22; prom. to corp.; sergt., 1st sergt. and 2d lieut., but not must. as latter; must. out as 1st sergt. June 8, '65.—Gates, Horace G.; Fifteenth Vt. Inf.—Goodwin, Charles L.; Fifteenth Mass. Inf.—Gould, George W.; Ninth Vt. Inf.—Graves, Willard R.; Fourteenth Vt. Inf.—Griffith, Henry L.; First R. I. Battery.—Griswold, Francis D.; First Mass. H. Art.— Harvey, James G.; Seventh R. I. Inf.—Hersey, Charles H.; U. S. navy.— Irish, Horace N.; First Vt. Cav.—Johnson, Charles L.; Ninth Vt. Inf.— King, David C.; Fifteenth Vt. Inf.—King, John; Ninth Vt. Inf.—King, Wallace A.; Seventh R. I. Inf.—Kingsbury, George S.; Sixteenth Vt. Inf. —Kirk, Reuben S.; Tenth Vt. Inf.—Knapp, Clark A.; Second Mass. H. Art.—Leahey, Thomas F.; unassigned Vt.—Lesure, John G.; Eighth Vt. Inf.—Merrill, Solomon F.; Fourth Vt. Inf.; musician.—Metcalf, Albert W.; Twelfth Vt. Inf.—Morse, Levi M. (or W.); U. S. navy.—Morrill, Josiah M.; Fifteenth Mass. Inf.—Murdick, Oliver P.; Seventh Vt. Inf.—Olcott, Brainerd T.; Eighth Vt. Inf.—Parker, Addison L.; Thirty-second Mass. Inf.—Pierce, Nelson J.; Thirty-sixth Mass. Inf.—Stiles, Ambrose A.; Fourth Vt. Inf.—Stiles, Lester K.; First Vt. Cav.—St. John, David; Second Vt. Light Battery.—Shedd, Charles W.; Fourteenth Vt. Inf., for 9 mos.; prom. to 1st sergt.; disch. exp. term; reenl. 1st Vt. Cav., to end of war.—Stowell, Martin A.; Third Vt. Inf.—Thomas, William B.; Second Vt. Inf.—Wheeler, Wesley H.; U. S. navy.—Whipple, Alfred P.; Second Mass. Inf.—Wood, George C.; First Mass. Battery.—Wood, John E.; First Mass. H. Art.

TOWN AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

The year 1865 opened with the Confederate army still holding its lines before Petersburg with unyielding tenacity, with a call from President Lincoln for 300,000 more men for one, two and three years, and with brisk recruiting throughout the North. Frequent public meetings were held in Keene to encourage enlistments and to provide

money for hiring recruits and for aiding the families of volunteers. The paper currency of the government was so depreciated that gold sold at a premium of more than two hundred per cent, and prices of commodities were enormously high; but that depreciation compelled large issues of paper money, made it plentiful among the people, and provided an excellent opportunity for paying off indebtedness; and business of nearly all kinds was exceedingly profitable—in that currency. Heavy income and other special taxes were levied for carrying on the war, and bonds were issued which the people promptly took (the earlier ones at a discount from their face value), to aid the government. Nearly a million dollars' worth of those bonds were taken by the three banks in Keene—each of which adopted the United States regulation and became a national bank—and by individuals through those banks. The Cheshire bank was made a United States depositary and received and transmitted internal revenue to the amount of nearly $700,000 during this year and the ones following it under the operation of that law.

At the annual meeting the town raised and appropriated ten thousand dollars towards paying town debts and interest, and three thousand dollars to aid the families of volunteers. The Union candidate for member of congress received 614 votes in Keene to 240 for his opponent.

Petersburg and Richmond were taken on Sunday morning, April 2. The news reached Keene at noon on Monday, "and during the afternoon and evening our streets resounded with joyful noises. One hundred guns were fired in honor of the event, flags were displayed, drums beat, bonfires were kindled, and the din of jubilation was kept up till midnight." (Sentinel.) There was great rejoicing throughout the North. In the larger cities business was suspended, and there was scarcely a village of five hundred inhabitants in the loyal states that did not have its demonstrations of rejoicing. And these were supplemented by generous contributions to the sanitary and Christian commissions for the sick and wounded soldiers and suffering refugees.

Lee surrendered on the 9th of April. Upon the receipt of the news in Keene preparations were made for a grand jubilation, and on Friday evening the program was carried out as planned. "The village of Keene was probably never so generally and brilliantly illuminated as it was on Friday evening last, in honor of the recent splendid Union victories achieved in Virginia. The Court House, Hotels, Town Hall, and nearly all the stores, shops and dwelling houses were literally in a blaze. The streets were thronged with people from this and neighboring towns, and the fire companies from Keene, Troy, Ashuelot and Bellows Falls, bearing torches, marched through the principal streets, accompanied by the Ashburnham Band and other music. The fireworks prepared and managed by a gentleman from Boston, added much to the excitement and pleasure of the evening. The whole affair was eminently successful." (Sentinel, April 20.)

But at the very hour when that jubilation was in progress President Lincoln was assassinated. Rejoicing was at once turned into mourning. The next Wednesday, the 19th, was named by the national authorities as the day, and 12 o'clock, noon, the hour for the funeral obsequies of the beloved president to be held throughout the country. In Keene they were appropriately observed. Services were held in all the churches, which were draped in mourning as well as many of the residences, places of business were closed, minute guns were fired and bells tolled. At Rev. Dr. Barstow's church five persons were present who had attended the funeral services in honor of George Washington in the same church, in December, 1799. They were Hon. John Prentiss, Noah R. Cooke, Esq., and Mrs. Elijah Parker, daughter of Rev. Aaron Hall, of Keene; and Abijah Ellis and Mrs. Lucy Nims, widow of the late Matthew Nims, of Roxbury.

At its session in June the legislature passed "An Act to establish the City of Keene,"—subject to the vote of the town. It was published in full in the local papers and thoroughly discussed. At a legal meeting on the 19th of August the town voted not to adopt the act, 411 to 241.

RICHARDS, COLONY AND SHELLY & SAWYER BUILDINGS. DESTROYED BY FIRE IN 1865.

On the night of the 19th of October, 1865, the entire group of buildings on the east side of the Square, between the Cheshire House and the town hall, was destroyed by fire. It consisted of Richards's block (formerly Lamson's) on the corner of Roxbury street; the handsome iron front building of the Messrs. Colony, of the Cheshire Mills of Harrisville; and the Shelly and Sawyer block. The small wooden building owned by Thomas M. Edwards and occupied by the post office was demolished to save the town hall. It was believed that all except Richards's block, where the fire originated, might have been saved but for the failure of the supply of water. Many of the occupants lost heavily. The total loss was nearly $70,000, about one-half of which was covered by insurance. The post office was removed to the northwest corner room in Elliot's block, on West street, now the Chinese laundry.

In November there was an escape of a convict from the jail in Keene so remarkable as to be worthy of record.

Mark Shinborn (Maximillian Schoenbein), an educated German, came to this country about 1860. He was then twenty-two years old, of agreeable manners, neatly dressed, a gambler, living in first-class hotels; and he became the ostensible owner of a fine farm and mansion near Saratoga, N. Y. He worked for a short term in the shops of the Lilly Safe Co. to learn the combination of locks. In November, 1864, he robbed the savings bank at Walpole, N. H., of about $40,000—entering the house of B. F. Aldrich, the treasurer, and taking the keys from his pocket. He was arrested at Saratoga in May, 1865, and brought to Keene for trial, where he attracted much attention, particularly from young women. He was convicted and sentenced to the state prison for ten years. On the day of his sentence, when his supper was taken to him, he presented a revolver (given him by an accomplice after the conviction) and walked out of the jail, kept his pursuers at bay, passed through Beaver street and over Beech hill through the woods. He was rearrested at Malone, N. Y., and brought to Keene in February, 1866, and taken to the prison at Concord; but by the aid of friends outside he escaped in December of that year. In his robbery at Walpole he was

assisted by George Miles White, who kept a store at Westmoreland Depot—had kept a public house at Alstead—and was superintendent of a Sunday school at Westmoreland; and it was said that they were aided and abetted by Rev. Charles Greenwood, for three years a minister at Westmoreland, who was afterwards believed to be guilty of both arson and theft in Keene. White was tried with Shinborn, but the evidence was not sufficient to convict him. After his escape from the prison at Concord, Shinborn learned through his "pals" (who had already made one attempt to secure the booty, on the 5th of December) that a large sum of money was deposited in the Ashuelot bank at Keene. He came to Keene and spent several weeks, in all, boarding at the Cheshire House. In some way he secured impressions in wax of the keys of the bank—it is believed by entering the house of the cashier, as at Walpole, and taking the keys from his pocket—returned to New York and made his keys and came back for his booty. These operations required three several trips between New York and Keene to allay suspicion and prepare all his keys. The story of this burglary, as told by his accomplice, is that upon gaining entrance to the bank safe the first time he found only one thousand dollars in money; that being a "high-toned" robber he disdained to steal so paltry a sum, preferring to wait for the larger sum expected, and went away without creating suspicion; that upon a second entry he found so large a sum, in currency, that he did not dare burden himself with so bulky a package, and that, without taking any of it, he returned to New York to make arrangements for its removal, but other operations intervened, he had to evade the officers of the law, and he never got the money.

He committed many other robberies, among them that of the Ocean bank, New York, where he secured, according to report, about one million dollars and escaped detection. He then went to Europe, lived in Brussells, bought the title of count, gambled away his fortune, took to robbery again, was arrested and sent to prison for fourteen years, but was pardoned in less than four years for divulging the name of his accomplice, an American. He caused the

report of his death to be circulated, came back to this country and renewed his robberies, was arrested by the Pinkerton agency in 1895, tried, convicted, and sentenced to prison for four years and eight months. At the expiration of that term—then sixty-eight years old—he was re-arrested for the Walpole robbery and recommitted to the prison at Concord, where he is at the present time serving out his term;—although he claims that he is not Mark Shinborn.

The civil war ended, practically, with the surrender of Lee, and as the financial and other matters connected with that war were summed up at the close of 1865, it was found that Keene was in debt for money borrowed to aid the Union cause, in addition to all that had been currently raised and expended for that purpose, $100,868.50. The amount of bounties the town had paid to soldiers was $110,984, and to aid the families of soldiers $40,515.86, the most of the latter sum being reimbursed by the state. "The town furnished 584 men for the army during the war, of which number forty-eight residents of Keene died in the service." (Sentinel, March 8, 1866.)

CHAPTER XIX.

TOWN AFFAIRS.

1866—1874.

At the annual meeting in 1866 the town voted to raise and appropriate $15,000 towards paying the town debt and interest; and again voted, 492 to 294, not to adopt a city charter. The selectmen were instructed to build a receiving tomb, and $700 were appropriated therefor.

The failure of the water supply at the fire on the east side of the Square in 1865 gave a fresh impulse to the project of bringing aqueduct water into the village. The subject had previously been agitated for many years in consequence of the inadequate supply of water in case of fires, and for manufacturing and other purposes, and the first action of the town in relation to it had been taken at the annual meeting in 1860, when the town voted "That it is expedient to introduce into the compact part of the Town a supply of water for the extinguishment of fires;" and a committee of five was appointed, with Wm. P Wheeler chairman, to report a plan and obtain the necessary legislation. Action was again taken in 1862 as stated, but the enterprise had not been pushed, and active interest in it had lain dormant until reawakened by the fire of 1865. At this annual meeting of 1866, a committee of seven was chosen to take the whole matter into consideration and report at a meeting to be called for that purpose. That committee, after examining several bodies of water, reported on the 2d of June, recommending "Goose pond" as the source of supply; but an adjourned meeting, on the 16th of the same month, voted to postpone the whole subject indefinitely—143 to 64.

The Fourth of July was celebrated in Keene this year, 1866. The day opened with the ringing of bells and the firing of a national salute. At 9 o'clock a procession of "Antiques and Horribles" marched through the streets, and at 10 o'clock there was a parade of firemen from

SAW AND GRIST MILLS OF FAULKNER & COLONY. BUILT 1838.

Fitchburg, Ashburnham, Troy and Keene, with military bands from Ashburnham, Gardner, Unionville and Keene. In the afternoon there was a trial of engines—the old-fashioned "tubs," operated with hand brakes—in which the Fitchburg company won the first prize, throwing water to the height of 189 feet. At 2 o'clock an oration was delivered in the town hall by Rev. William Gaylord, and there were fireworks in the evening. Good order prevailed and there was an almost total absence of drunkenness and rowdyism.

During this season and the following one, the Cheshire railroad expended about $80,000 in building shops and making improvements, under the direction of Francis A. Perry, master mechanic, who drew the plans and superintended the work. The main shop was 415 feet long by 52 to 65 feet in width. Charles Bridgman also built his block on the east side of the Square during that season.

Capt. Jesse Corbett, very aged, a prominent man in Keene in the early part of the nineteenth century—captain of the Keene Light Infantry and a public spirited citizen—died in August.

In January, 1867, Mr. George K. Wright and his brother, Charles, 2d, cut and hauled to Faulkner & Colony's mill fourteen logs from a single white pine tree and its two main branches. The tree measured 121 feet in height, eighteen and one-half feet in circumference four feet from the ground, and contained 9,000 feet of lumber valued at $140 standing. The tree was sold for $180, delivered at the mill. The decayed portion was estimated at 800 feet more. Its age was calculated from its rings to be about three hundred years—"believed to be the oldest inhabitant in town," and the largest tree in Cheshire county.

The town having been indicted for allowing the two large elm trees—one now known as the "Cooke elm," the other standing in the sidewalk near St. James' church—to stand in the travelled way, an article was inserted in the warrant for the annual meeting of 1867 to see whether or not the town would instruct the selectmen or highway surveyor to remove those trees. On that article the town

"Voted, Unanimously that the Selectmen and Town Agent be instructed to protect and defend" those trees "from all inditements and depredations whatsoever." The trees were defended and still stand, vigorous and thrifty.

At the same meeting the town voted "to adopt an act entitled 'An Act to establish the City of Keene,'"—460 to 430. But a petition to the legislature for leave to surrender the charter was immediately circulated, signed by about 600 legal voters of Keene, and in July an act was passed allowing another vote on the question; and at the next annual meeting the charter was rejected by a vote of 700 to 378.

At the organization of the legislature in June, 1867, Gen. S. G. Griffin, of Keene, was elected speaker of the house of representatives, and was reëlected to that position in 1868.

On the 12th of August the large shops on Mechanic street were destroyed by fire. They were occupied by Nims & Crossfield for making sash, doors and blinds, and by several smaller manufacturing concerns and individuals. The houses of Mr. Arba Kidder and Mr. John F. Prindell and several small buildings were also burned. Loss, $44,300; insured for $13,075. The fire started in the engine-house of Nims & Crossfield. Soon afterwards a corporation was formed, called the Keene Steam Power Company, which rebuilt the mills at a cost of about $40,000.

On the 15th and 16th of August there was a remarkably heavy fall of rain extending from Maine to Virginia. Crops were destroyed and much damage was done by the floods. The Concord road over Beech hill was completely washed out for nearly an eighth of a mile in length and from two to six feet in depth. A neighboring farmer estimated that five hundred thousand loads of gravel would be required to fill the cavity; but the road was repaired by cutting it down to the bottom of the channel made by the flood.

During this season the Unitarian church edifice on the corner of Main and Church streets was repaired and improved, and a steeple added to the tower; and about seventy-five new houses were built in town.

Notwithstanding the indefinite postponement of the subject in 1866, the demand for aqueduct water was imperative, and at a special meeting to consider that question held on the 5th of October, 1867, another committee of seven was chosen to take the whole matter under consideration. That committee reported on the 5th of November recommending Goose pond as the source of water supply; and on the 18th of December the town voted to purchase Goose pond, and a committee consisting of Samuel A. Gerould, Edward Joslin, Daniel H. Holbrook, Reuben Stewart and George Holmes was appointed to employ engineers, make examinations and estimates, and report at a subsequent meeting. That committee reported on the 13th of August following, and the town then voted, 381 to 86, to construct the works. A committee for that purpose was chosen consisting of Edward Joslin, Thomas H. Leverett, Samuel A. Gerould, Daniel H. Holbrook and George W. Ball. A contract was made and the water was introduced in November, 1869. The same meeting authorized the issue of bonds for a loan of seventy-five thousand dollars (the sum afterwards increased as the works were extended) and chose a "water loan committee" to prepare and sell the bonds, consisting of Thomas H. Leverett, Royal H. Porter and George W. Tilden.

On the 1st of July, 1868, the semi-centennial of the settlement of Rev. Dr. Barstow was celebrated. He had been settled by the town, and the commemoration was made a town affair. The ceremonies were under the direction of a committee of twenty gentlemen and ladies. The interior of the church edifice was decorated, and embellished with appropriate inscriptions. Religious services were held in the forenoon, at which Dr. Barstow preached a historical sermon, wearing the robes in vogue at the time of his settlement, and the choir sang two of the anthems used at his ordination. At the close of the exercises a procession of about 600 persons moved from the church to the town hall and sat down to dinner. Hon. Thomas M. Edwards presided, and addresses were made in response to toasts by Rev. Dr. Bouton, of Concord; Rev. William S. Karr, Dr. Barstow's successor; Rev. William O. White; Hon.

George S. Hale and Horatio Parker, Esq., of Boston, natives of Keene; J. Whitney Barstow, M. D., of New York, son of the guest; and by Hon. John Prentiss, John H. Elliot, William P Wheeler, S. A. Gerould and R. H. Porter, of Keene. Mrs. Barstow had a seat at the table next her husband and shared in the honors and encomiums showered upon him. A purse of two hundred dollars and a life annuity of five hundred dollars were presented him, and the exercises closed with a benediction. On the 19th of August following, Dr. and Mrs. Barstow celebrated their golden wedding, at their life-long residence, the old Wyman tavern, a full account of which was published in a neat booklet—"A Golden Remembrance"—by their son, Dr. J. Whitney Barstow

The agitation for the resuscitation of the Young Men's Christian Union, which began in 1866, resulted in December of this year in an organization—the term Union changed to Association—of which L. C. Doolittle was president, John Humphrey vice-president, A. B. Skinner secretary, and George E. Holbrook auditor. Its rooms were in Bridgman's block.

The Keene Five Cents Savings bank was incorporated in 1868 and on the 1st of January, 1869, began operations. For many years it was very successful, its deposits reaching, in 1892, $3,100,000; but the financial panic of 1893 caused the depreciation of some of its securities, created alarm among the depositors, and large amounts were withdrawn; and the bank was compelled to close its doors.

On the 15th of January, 1869, the steam mills on Ralston street owned by Madison Fairbanks and used for saw and grist mills and the manufacture of sash, doors, blinds, pails and other articles, were destroyed by fire. Loss about $50,000; insured for $22,675.

The velocipede mania reached Keene early in 1869, but after a run of some months it subsided until the bicycle came years later.

At the annual town meeting the city charter was again rejected by a vote of 784 to 177; and at the next annual meeting a still stronger majority was recorded against it.

In the early part of this year the Farmers' and Mechanics' Club was organized in Keene—the precursor of the grange—and held frequent meetings, with spirited and profitable discussions.

At no time, probably. in the history of Keene did its military band take so high a rank as at this period, when for several years it was under the direction of Professor W. T. Allen. It furnished the music for commencement exercises at Middlebury college, Vt., in 1869, and at Kimball academy, Meriden, N. H.; and it had frequent calls from out of town for its services at public functions.

In November the town voted—540 to 207—a gratuity of three per cent on its valuation for 1869 to aid in building the Manchester & Keene railroad—the money to be raised by loan on thirty-year bonds at six per cent. After much opposition and delay the bonds were finally issued by the city in 1874 to the amount of $160,000. The road had been chartered in 1864, and the line surveyed in 1865 by James A. Weston, civil engineer, afterwards governor of the state.

At the annual meeting in 1870 the town authorized the water board to employ an engineer to make surveys and estimates for a system of sewerage for the town, but at subsequent meetings articles in relation to that subject were passed over, and nothing was done towards constructing the works until after the town became a city.

At the expiration of his term in July, Dr. Thomas E. Hatch retired from the office of postmaster, and was succeeded by Capt. Henry C. Handerson. The census of this year gave Keene a population of 5,971.[1]

During this season the Cheshire Provident Institution for Savings built the large brick block on the east side of Central square, known as the Bank block. For several years the postoffice occupied one of its rooms, the entrance being on Roxbury street. In the same year Mr. Timothy Colony built a similar block on the adjoining north lot.

At the annual meeting in 1871 the town voted to exempt from taxation for ten years a manufacturing establishment then contemplated, since known as Beaver mills,

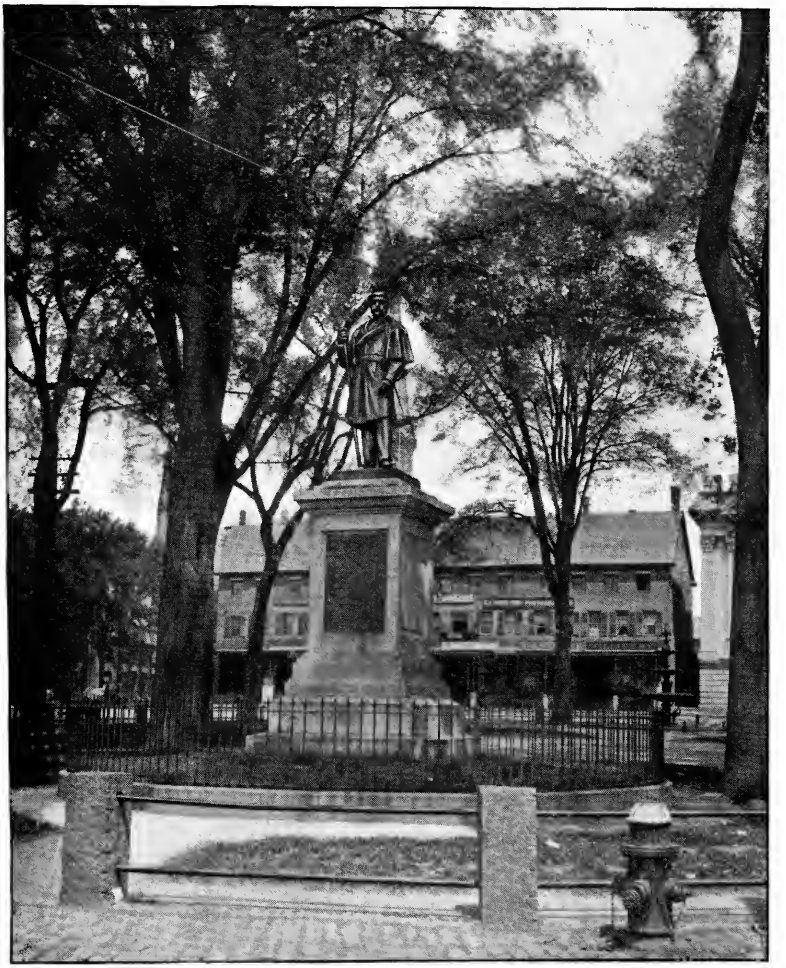
[1] Swanzey had 1.626; Winchester, 2,096; Chesterfield, 1,289; Westmoreland, 1,256; Walpole, 1,830; the state, 326,073.

provided that not less than fifty thousand dollars should be invested in the plant. That sum was subscribed, a stock company was formed, and the mills were built during that season; and the Cheshire Chair Company and the Keene Furniture Company removed from Mechanic street and took up quarters there. Those companies had been organized respectively in 1868 and 1869, with Edward Joslin as principal owner in each, and F. L. Sprague in the furniture and G. W. McDuffee in the chair company, managers. John Humphrey's machine shop and waterwheel works and other manufactories also found rooms at the Beaver mills.

The pottery at the lower end of Main street, J. S. Taft & Co., and the glue factory at the upper end of Court street, founded by E. E. Lyman, soon succeeded by O. W. Upham, were established during this season.

A military company, composed of veterans of the Civil war and named the Keene Light Infantry, was organized this year, with John W. Babbitt, captain, and Solon A. Carter, lieutenant. It had its armory in the old Methodist church, on Vernon street.

At the annual meeting in 1868 the town had voted to build a monument to the soldiers of the Civil war and appropriated two thousand dollars for that purpose; but that sum was considered inadequate and no farther action was taken until August, 1870, when the additional sum of five thousand dollars was appropriated—and afterwards five hundred dollars for the dedication—and a committee consisting of Dr. George B. Twitchell, Gen. S. G. Griffin, Lieut. C. F. Webster, R. H. Porter and John Humphrey was appointed to carry out the work. Col. Solon A. Carter, Joseph G. Perry and Capt. John W. Sturtevant were afterwards added to the committee. The monument, built in 1871, consists of a bronze figure of a soldier in the uniform and equipments of the Union army in the Civil war, designed by Martin Milmore of Boston and cast by the Ames Manufacturing Company, of Chicopee, Mass. The figure stands on a pedestal of Roxbury granite cut by Charles S. Barnes from designs furnished by the committee. On the die a bronze tablet bears the inscription:



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

KEENE
WILL CHERISH IN PERPETUAL HONOR
THE MEMORY OF HER SONS
WHO FOUGHT FOR LIBERTY
AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE
REPUBLIC.
1861 1865
THE HONOR
OF THE HEROIC DEAD
IS THE INSPIRATION OF
POSTERITY.

On the 20th of October, 1871, the monument was dedicated in the presence of a large concourse of people. Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic, with bands, were present from Brattleboro, Claremont, Newport and Peterboro; and military companies from Fitzwilliam and Hinsdale. A procession consisting of posts of the G. A. R., military companies, firemen, civic bodies and citizens in carriages, headed by the Keene Military band and escorted by the Keene Light Infantry, Col. John W Babbitt commanding, all under the marshalship of Col. Solon A. Carter, marched through the principal streets. The dedicatory exercises were held in a tent pitched on the south side of the monument. Among the distinguished guests present were Governor Weston and staff, Gen. James A. Garfield (on a visit with his mother to her birthplace in Richmond), Gen. Judson Kilpatrick, Senator James W Patterson, Col. Carroll D. Wright, and Martin Milmore, the sculptor. Gen. S. G. Griffin was president of the day, Gen. Kilpatrick delivered an oration, and Lieut. George A. Marden read an original poem. Other short speeches were made and excellent music was rendered. At 4 o'clock the invited guests and citizens, to the number of about one hundred and fifty, sat down to dinner at the Cheshire House. Grace was said by Rev. Dr. Barstow. At the close of the dinner the following toasts were announced by the president of the day: 1. "The President of the United States;" responded to by Senator Patterson. 2. "The Governor of New Hampshire;" responded to by Gov. Weston. 3. "The Volunteers in the Late War;" responded to by Gen. Garfield. 4. "The Right Arm of the Government—the Army and the Navy;" responded to by Gen. Kilpatrick. 5. "Our Patriotic Dead;"

responded to by Col. Carroll D. Wright. 6. "The Loyal Men and Women Who Encouraged and Sustained the Army in the Field;" responded to by Hon. Thomas M. Edwards.

A few other short addresses were made, and, altogether, it was an exceedingly rich intellectual feast, and a brilliant display of oratory. The visiting military and civic bodies and other guests, to the number of about five hundred, were also abundantly entertained. In the evening Gen. Griffin gave a reception to Generals Garfield and Kilpatrick, Senator Patterson, Mr. Milmore and other guests; and Mr. Henry Colony, in his new house on West street, now the public library building, paid a similar compliment to Governor Weston and staff and others. Both parties were serenaded by the Keene Military band.

At the annual meeting in 1872 the town authorized the water board to procure land for a reservoir on Beech hill—the old natural reservoir, improved by increasing the height of the dam.

The large tannery at West Keene, established in 1872 by Mr. John Symonds (Bigelow & Co.), and successfully operated for about twenty years, was exempted from taxation for five years by vote of the town.

On the 20th of June, at an evening meeting held at the town hall to consider the subject of a charter for a city, Dr. Geo. B. Twitchell, chairman, Francis A. Faulkner, George F. Starkweather, Kendall C. Scott, Horatio Colony and Edward Joslin were appointed a committee to make a draft of a charter to be submitted to the legislature; and the act was passed at the next session, approved July 3, 1873.

The Keene Natural History Society was organized this year, through the efforts of Mr. George A. Wheelock and others. Its collection of specimens is kept in the hall of the high school building.

The 24th of December, 1872, was a remarkably cold day, the mercury falling to 28° below zero here, and to 40° and 45° below in some places in the state.

At the annual meeting in 1873 a committee, consisting of William P. Wheeler, Stephen Barker and George A.

Wheelock, appointed in November to consider the question of enlarging Woodland cemetery, reported in favor of purchasing additional land, and George B. Twitchell, George H. Richards and Horatio Colony were appointed a committee, acting in concert with the selectmen, to make the purchase, but the next year the whole matter was referred to the city government. This year the town sent seven representatives to the legislature.

On the 1st day of May a festival was held by the ladies of the Unitarian Sewing Society, who for two years had been at work for this object, for the purpose of raising funds for the establishment of an invalids' home in Keene, and an entertaining booklet called "The May Flower," copies of which may still be found, was published and sold to aid the cause. An impulse had been given to the movement by a bequest of one thousand dollars from Mr. Charles F. Wilson, a farmer who had come from Sullivan to Keene and lived on Marlboro street. A house on Beaver street was purchased and the invalids' home established.

At the close of Rev. Gilbert Robbins' ministry in the Baptist church—1846 to 1857—Rev. Leonard Tracy was pastor for six years, Rev. William N. Clarke upwards of five years, Rev. A. V. Tilton nearly three years, and in 1872 Rev. William H. Eaton accepted a call to that position. Through his efforts the society decided to build a new church edifice, and their present one on Court street was begun in June, 1873, and dedicated in May, 1875.

The old town bell on the First Congregational church having been cracked, an effort was made to procure a new one. At the annual meeting in 1873 the town voted, as it had already done in 1840, to relinquish all its rights in the bell and belfry of the church. The society purchased a new bell, which was used for the first time on the first Sunday in June.

"At the suggestion of Mr. Jonas Parker, one of our best local authorities in such matters, the new bell was tuned in the key of A, so that the discord alluded to is partially remedied, and wholly overcome in case certain three of the bells are sounded at the same time. The Unitarian bell is keyed in F sharp, the Episcopal in D, and the

new bell in A, and when rung in concert produce a perfect major chord; the Baptist bell is keyed in C sharp, and this with the Unitarian (F sharp) and the Congregational (A) produce a minor chord. When the four are sounded together, of course they produce a discordant sound, but not so harsh and grating as when the old bell formed one of the quartette." (Sentinel, June 5, 1873.)

In the autumn of this year some of the leading women of the town, aided by a few of the men, organized the Keene Social Union for the purpose of providing young men and boys with a reading room and social advantages during the winter evenings, to draw them away from the saloons. Mrs. William O. White was the first president, and the society was successful for several years. At first it occupied chambers on the east side of the Square.

In business affairs at this time—when the town became a city—Elliot & Ripley in the hardware store on the corner of Main and West streets had been succeeded in 1866 by Spencer & Co., who remained there for thirty-five years; C. T. & G. B. Buffum, clothiers, were in the north half of the old A. & T. Hall store, and Joslin (Edward) & Gay, grocers, were in the south half, succeeding C. Bridgman, who had removed to his new block on the east side of the Square. Keyes & Stratton were in the old Keyes store on the corner where the postoffice building now stands; Whitcomb & Dunbar, clothiers, were in the Whitcomb store; G. H. Tilden & Co. still occupied the south store in Gerould's block; and Richardson, Skinner & Day were in the store next north of Tilden, in the Gerould block, afterwards called the "Museum." J. R. Beal & Co. and W. H. Spalter, succeeding his father, were in Ball's block, formerly Wilders', where Spalter still remains. A. H. Grimes kept a general assortment of goods under the town hall; Knowlton & Stone had established their hardware business next north of Bridgman, as at present; and D. B. Silsby & Co. dry goods merchants, were on the east side of the Square. Ball & Whitney, formerly Ball & Alden, dealers in furs, hats and caps, succeeded Henry Pond & Co. in the northwest corner of the Cheshire House; Reuel Nims still kept his store in the Nims building (formerly Cooke's); and G. W. & G. E. Holbrook were grocers

and grain dealers on the east side of Main street, where Gurnsey's block now stands. Davis & Wright had succeeded O. H. Gillett in stoves and tin ware near the depot, where the Sentinel building now stands, and Gillett had opened another store of the same kind on West street.

The druggists and apothecaries were O. G. Dort & Co., afterwards Dort & Chandler, and Chauncey Hills. Harris & Wetherbee had done a thriving business in that line some years before. Allen & Wadsworth (Samuel) were the principal jewelers. In the millinery business were E. R. Gilmore, Hatch & Johnson, and Mrs. E. H. White, all on Central square, Mrs. L. A. Alexander on Winter street, and Miss Marietta N. Taft, who had succeeded Mrs. Caswell in the south half of the Nims building. Miss Taft carried on a successful business there for thirteen years. Chester Allen, S. C. Dustin, and French & Sawyer (Daniel H.) were still taking photographs; and Joseph and Ephraim Foster still made parlor organs and melodeons. M. T. Tottingham was in the furniture business; J. & F. French continued the manufacture of sleighs and carriages on Church street; Breed & Holton were in the same business on Mechanic street, and Edwards & Harlow on the north corner of Mechanic and Washington streets; and Wright & Wilkinson made harnesses, trunks, etc. The machinists were John Humphrey & Co. at Beaver mills, and Sanborn & Hubbard on Elm street. The civil engineer for the town and county was George W. Sturtevant; and the plumbers —the first in town—were George Goodhue & Co., soon succeeded by James Donnelly and others. The principal carpenters and builders were H. P. Muchmore, Daniel Buss, John Proctor, O. S. Gleason, and A. R. & E. S. Foster.

The principal blacksmiths were W. H. Brooks, Spencer & Sons, and Waldo & Jones on Church street, T. C. Ellis on Mechanic street, and F. B. Benton. The principal boot and shoe dealers and manufacturers were the Ashuelot Boot & Shoe Company, on the corner of River and Leverett streets, George Kingsbury, George P Drown, David Hutchins, C. Cummings & Son, and W. O. Wilson. The Keene Chair Company, S. D. Osborne and others, were at South Keene; S. W. Hale, A. B. Heywood and others were

running the Ashuelot Steam mills on Ralston street; and Crossfield & Scott were making sash, doors and blinds in the steam mills on Mechanic street.

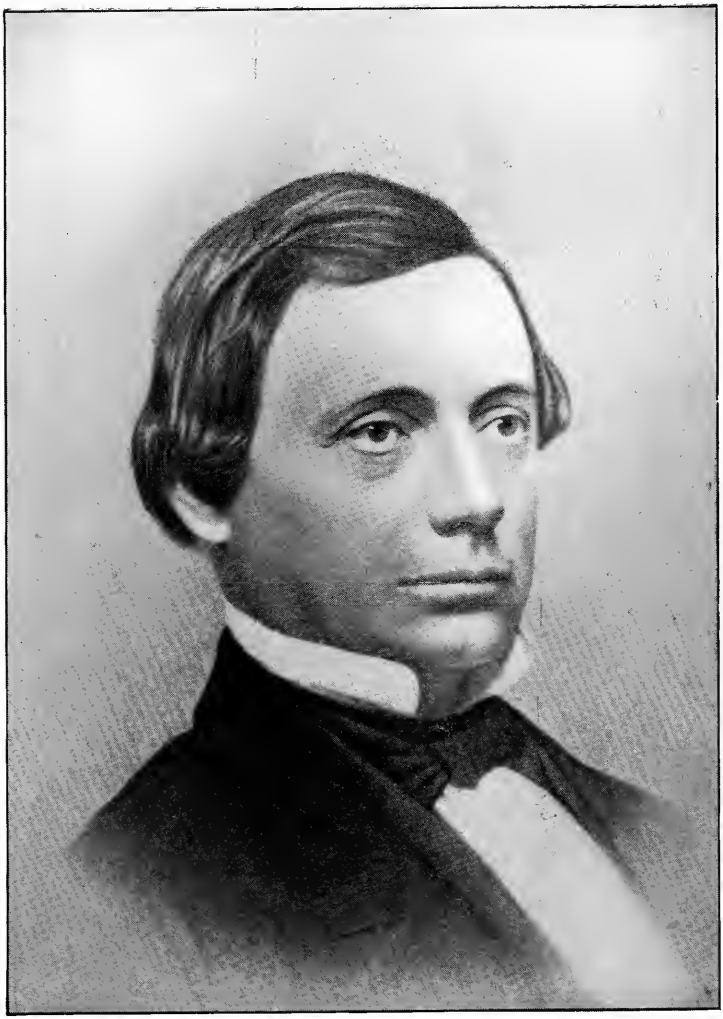
The fire department consisted of a chief engineer—Virgil A. Wright—and six assistants; two engine companies, the Deluge and the Neptune, of twenty to twenty-five men each; the Washington Hook and Ladder Company of twenty men; and the Phœnix Hose Company of sixteen men. The engines still in use were the old-fashioned tubs, with hand brakes, and the hydrants of the aqueduct water were the chief dependence in case of fire in the village; but the question of procuring steam fire engines had begun to be agitated.

The Cheshire House was kept by Morgan J. Sherman, who was its landlord for many years; the Eagle Hotel by Wright & Mason (John A. Wright and Andrew R. Mason); and the Emerald, with the name changed to American House, by Greeley & Wellington, soon succeeded by J. W. Starkey.

The lawyers in practice were Wheeler & Faulkner, Farnum F. Lane, Don H. Woodward, C. C. Webster, Silas Hardy, Daniel K. Healy, Hiram Blake, Leonard Wellington and C. F. Webster; the physicians and surgeons were George B. Twitchell, Thomas B. Kittredge, A. S. Carpenter, Ira F. Prouty, Gardner C. Hill and Mrs. Hill, Henry H. Darling, J. Homer Darling, and Francis Brick; and the dentists were F. S. Stratton and M. E. Loveland, over the Ashuelot bank, Russell & Mellen and George H. Russell.

In the management of the Sentinel, T. C. Rand & Co. had been succeeded by George Ticknor & Co., and they by Olin L. French & Co. and later by the Sentinel Printing Company; and in the Republican, Horatio Kimball had been succeeded by Julius N. Morse.

The population of the town at this time was a little over 6,000; the total valuation for taxation was $4,081,088.00; the number of ratable polls was 1,879; state tax, $18,354.00; county tax, $8,228.31; school tax, $10,706.50; tax for highways and bridges, $8,000.00; tax for town paupers, $2,200.00; tax for fire department,



WILLIAM P. WHEELER.

$1,500.00; tax for lighting street lamps, $1,400.00; total tax assessment, $52,925.45.

The fifteen highest individual taxpayers were Charles S. Faulkner, John Henry Elliot, Morgan J. Sherman, Horatio Colony, George D. Colony, Timothy Colony, Edward Joslin, Samuel A. Gerould, Charles Lamson, Noah R. Cooke (estate), Thomas M. Edwards, Henry Colony, George W Ball, Lucian B. Page, and William O. White.

At the annual meeting in 1874, held on the 10th of March, the town voted to adopt the city charter—783 to 589. The article to choose selectmen was passed over, the board of 1873 holding over until the organization of the city government. Articles relating to highways, the public library, sewerage and other matters were passed over or referred to the incoming city government. In compliance with the provisions of the charter the selectmen prepared check lists and called meetings in the several wards, and on the 14th of April city and ward officers were elected, the selectmen receiving, counting and declaring the votes. On the 5th of May the officers then chosen organized as a city government, the chairman of the board of selectmen presented them with the original charter of the town of Keene from the state of New Hampshire and surrendered the municipal affairs of the town into their hands; and the town of Keene, as a corporate body, ceased to exist.

CHAPTER XX.

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS AND EVENTS.

In the previous chapters the events connected with the history of the First Congregational, Baptist, Unitarian and St. James' Episcopal church have been noted from time to time. The other principal churches previous to 1874 were the Methodist, Roman Catholic and Second Congregational. The first of these, in the order of establishment, was the Methodist, the second was the Roman Catholic and the third was the Second Congregational. Short histories of these churches, of the two principal secret societies and of the Grand Army of the Republic are given in this chapter, with some facts of interest regarding the geography of the town.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Methodist Episcopal church in Keene was organized in December, 1835, with thirty members. They worshipped in various halls, sometimes in the town hall. In 1852 they bought their present lot on Court street of Abijah Wilder for $450, and the next year built a meeting-house, and the church and society prospered. In 1867 that edifice was sold and removed to Vernon street, where it still stands, and for some months they worshipped in the town hall. In 1868-9 their present brick church was built, at a cost of $40,000, and was dedicated Nov. 23, 1869.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

In 1857, Rev. Father John Brady, resident pastor at Claremont, having jurisdiction over southwestern New Hampshire, bought a building on Marlboro street and consecrated it to church uses, officiating there once a month; and early in 1862 he transferred his residence from Claremont to Keene. He was succeeded in April of that year by Rev. James Parache, who died the following

year and was succeeded in 1864 by Rev. Bernard O'Hara, who died within two years, and Rev. William Herbert was installed in January, 1866. He built an addition to the church edifice, containing a vestry and living rooms, and took up his residence there. He was succeeded in June, 1869, by Rev. Daniel W. Murphy, who enlarged and improved the church buildings, adding an organ and a furnace. His parish included the towns of Marlboro, Troy, Fitzwilliam, Swanzey and Gilsum, numbering about 2,500 souls, and he remained until March, 1876.

After several short pastorates, Rev. John R. Power was installed in December, 1882, and the following year he bought land for a parochial school, and completed the school buildings in 1885. In 1886, he bought the R. Stewart place on Main street—removing the house to the rear and occupying it as a rectory—and in 1890 to 1892, built the present St. Bernard's church. He was succeeded in 1895 by the present pastor, Rev. Denis A. Ryan.

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

In 1867, in consequence of a disagreement between the First Congregational church and the society connected with it, and because the congregation had become too large to be accommodated in one house of worship, forty-two male and eighty female members of that church withdrew, and in the autumn of that year organized the Second Orthodox Congregational church in Keene. Rev. J. A. Leach was called to be its pastor, and in 1868-9 the meetinghouse on Court street was built, and was dedicated, Sept. 16, 1869. The church prospered and Mr. Leach remained in charge of it for seventeen years, for fifteen of which he was its settled pastor.

FREEMASONS—1784-1874.

In 1784, before the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire was organized, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts granted a charter, signed by John Warren, most worshipful grand master, Paul Revere, deputy grand master, and other prominent Masons, to Asa Dunbar, Alexander Ralston, Luther Eames, Jonas Prescott and Benjamin Ellis, of

Keene, and others in this part of the state—among them Daniel Jones, the distinguished lawyer of Winchester—all Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, establishing Rising Sun Lodge No. 4, at Keene. Asa Dunbar was its first master, and its meetings were held for some years in the hall of the Ralston tavern. In 1792, Rising Sun Lodge obtained a charter from the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, which had been organized in 1789, and the charter from Massachusetts was returned.

In 1797, Rising Sun Lodge built on land on the east side of Main street, in Federal Row, on the north corner of Main and Dunbar streets—bought for the purpose by William Todd and Jehoshaphat Grout of Alexander Ralston—a two-story wooden building, called "Masons' Hall." (That building was afterwards removed to Court street, by Dr. Joseph Wheeler, and is now the residence of his grandson, Mr. George H. Tilden.) The Masons' hall was on the second floor, doubtless with stores or shops below. Among the masters who succeeded Asa Dunbar were William Todd, 1789 to 1799, and Dr. Ziba Hall, 1799 to 1805, both of Keene.[1] Early in 1805, Capt. William Wyman built the three-story brick store, now the south end of the Eagle Hotel, and the Masons dedicated the upper story of that building as a Masonic hall. That dedication may have been later and by some other body of Masons (the chapter was organized in 1816, and Social Friends Lodge in 1825), as in September, 1805, the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, in special session at the lodge room in Keene, "arrested" the charter of Rising Sun Lodge on account of the "unpardonable conduct" of some of its members. The seal on the charter was broken and the charter itself destroyed; but the properties of the lodge were turned over to Elijah Dunbar, Esq., for Masonic purposes. June 24, 1809, Jerusalem Lodge of Westmoreland and Charity Lodge of Fitzwilliam came to Keene and celebrated the festival of St. John the Baptist, inviting all

[1] The most distinguished Mason in Rising Sun Lodge was Thomas Smith Webb, of Keene, a bookbinder, who received the master mason's degree in that lodge, Dec. 27, 1790. He was born in Boston in 1771, spent several years in Keene, but removed to Albany, N. Y., about 1796-7. He published an American handbook of Masonry and other works of a similar character—the first published in this country.

Masons in regular standing to join. They assembled at "Brother William Pierce's hall" (tavern, formerly Dr. Edwards's) and marched to the meetinghouse; and had a banquet at the hall afterwards.

In 1825, James Wilson, Jr., and others obtained a charter from the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire for a lodge at Keene, named the Social Friends Lodge No. 42. Its meetings were held in Prentiss's block (now Whitcombs') on the west side of the Square. James Wilson, Jr., was its first master, and he was succeeded by Jesse Corbett and Benjamin F. Adams of Keene and Col. Cyrus Frost of Marlboro. In 1829, '30 and '31, Col. Wilson was grand master of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire. In 1827, great excitement was caused throughout the country by the murder of one Morgan in western New York, alleged to have been committed by the Masons. In consequence of the bitter feeling thus aroused against Freemasonry—which extended so far as to affect political parties throughout the United States—the lodge at Keene subsided in 1829–30; and about that time the records of the lodge were destroyed by fire. In 1856, Dr. Algernon Sidney Carpenter and others applied for a charter for a lodge in Keene, but it was refused on the ground that a lodge was already in existence here. About that time John Prentiss found among his old papers the charter of 1825, which had been saved from the fire of 1830, and the lodge was reëstablished. Dr. Carpenter was its first master after the reorganization, and the meetings were held in Odd Fellows' hall, Ball's block, until 1860, when rooms were prepared in Elliot's building (St. Johns' block), and the meetings of all the Masonic bodies have ever since been held in that building, their quarters being enlarged and improved as the needs of the order required. The masters of Social Friends Lodge succeeding Dr. Carpenter down to 1874 were Barrett Ripley, Royal H. Porter, Theodore J. French, Don H. Woodward, Edward Gustine, Solon S. Wilkinson, Solon A. Carter, Horatio Colony, Charles S. Coburn, Leonard J. Tuttle and Obed M. Holton.

In 1869 a second lodge was organized in Keene, called the Lodge of the Temple. Dr. A. S. Carpenter was also

the first master of this lodge, and he was succeeded by Dr. Thomas E. Hatch, Edward Gustine, Edward E. Lyman and Francis Brick.

In 1816 a chapter of Royal Arch Masons was organized in Keene, and work was begun under a dispensation. In 1819 a charter was granted by Thomas Smith Webb, deputy general grand high priest, to John Prentiss and others. Broughton White was the first high priest, and he was followed by John Prentiss, Daniel Bradford, James Wilson, Jr., and in later years by John Henry Elliot, and by many of those who had been masters of the lodges. Among other distinguished names which appear on its rolls and on those of the earlier lodges are those of Rev. Clement Sumner, Major Josiah Willard, Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, Hon. Peleg Sprague, Samuel West, Esq., Rev. Laban Ainsworth, Samuel Cooke, Ithamar Chase, John H. Steele and Marshall P. Wilder. From 1835 to 1843 the chapter failed to make returns to the grand chapter, and its charter was declared forfeited June 14, 1843. Gen. James Wilson, then surveyor general of Iowa, took the paraphernalia with him and organized a chapter in that territory. The records previous to 1830 were destroyed in the fire of that year. The charter was restored in 1859.

A council of Royal and Select Masters was formed at Keene, July 9, 1823—the first in the state—with James Wilson, Jr., thrice illustrious master. After some years of activity it became dormant, but was revived in 1872, with John Henry Elliot thrice illustrious master, and named St. John's Council No. 4.

In 1863, a party of Royal Arch Masons, among whom were Don H. Woodward, Barrett Ripley, Elisha F. Lane, William S. Briggs, John Henry Elliot and Edward Farrar of Keene, went to Hartford, Vt., and received the Templar degrees; and in 1866, Hugh de Payens Commandery of Knights Templar was organized at Keene. Dr. Thomas E. Hatch was its first commander, and he was succeeded for nine years by Gen. S. G. Griffin. All the above Masonic bodies, and some others that have been added, are now in a prosperous condition.

ODD FELLOWSHIP IN KEENE.

Beaver Brook Lodge, No. 36, I. O. O. F., was instituted at the town hall in Keene, on March 17, 1851. The ceremonies of institution were performed by the following named Odd Fellows: Most Worthy Grand Master Stevens of New Ipswich, grand master; Grand Master Tuxbury of Windsor, Vt., deputy grand master; Past Grand E. A. Knight of Skitchawaug Lodge of Springfield, Vt., grand warden; Past Grand Prescott Robinson of Fidelity Lodge No. 16, of Andover, Mass., grand secretary; Past Grand I. O. Morgan of Social Lodge of Wilmington, Vt., grand treasurer; Brother Cyrus Newhall of Mt. Pisgah Lodge of Hinsdale, grand chaplain; Past Grand J. McIntyre of Windsor Lodge of Windsor, Vt., grand marshal; and Past Grand Parmalee of the same lodge, grand conductor.

The petitioners for the organization of a lodge in Keene, and their guests having assembled in the town hall, the former were duly examined by three wardens appointed for that purpose. The dispensation was then read by the grand secretary, and the grand master "declared the name of the lodge to be Beaver Brook, and the number to be thirty-six, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire;" and the deputy grand master then declared the lodge instituted in due and regular form. At this time ten candidates were initiated into the mysteries of the order. Their names were William S. Briggs, George W. Perry, Norman Kellogg, David N. Wright, Jason French, Timothy Colony, William L. Davis, Henry Pond, Samuel S. Stedman and Horatio A. Tuthill. The list of charter members comprised the names of six Odd Fellows who received the degrees of the order elsewhere. They were William G. Hunter, Eli G. Hunter, Ephraim Whitcomb, Mark Wells, George H. Burrows and Levi L. Bates.

After the initiation the lodge was fully organized for the work of the order by the choice of the following named officers: William G. Hunter, noble grand; Eli G. Hunter, vice grand; Ephraim Whitcomb, secretary; Mark Wells, permanent secretary; George H. Burrows, treasurer; and by the appointment of the following: William S. Briggs, conductor; Jason French, outside guardian; Horatio

Tuthill, inside guardian; Timothy Colony, right supporter noble grand; Henry Pond, left supporter noble grand; William L. Davis, right supporter vice grand; David N. Wright, left supporter vice grand. The first candidates proposed for membership in the new lodge were John S. Thayer of Swanzey and Joseph W Briggs of Keene, who were admitted to membership on April 11, 1851.

Meetings were held in the Sons of Temperance hall, Hall's block, now the addition to the Cheshire House block on the south. About July 14, 1852, the lodge moved into a new hall fitted up for its use by Henry Pond in his brick block at the head of Central square, which is now known as the Grand Army hall in Ball's block. The rooms were several times remodeled and enlarged. The brotherhood dedicated its new quarters on the occasion of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the institution of the lodge, which took place on March 16, 1876. This hall was occupied till 1883, when the lodge was removed to the hall built for the order, in the addition to the Cheshire House, on Roxbury street, in the latter part of that year. New quarters were again built for the lodge in the E. F. L. building on Main street, into which the brethren moved. These spacious and convenient rooms they now occupy. They were dedicated to the uses of Odd Fellowship with pleasing ceremonies on Jan. 31, 1895.

Other organizations have been instituted and fostered by the Odd Fellows and their families. The degree of Rebekah was conferred upon seventeen brothers, on March 19, 1852. The first woman to receive the degree of Rebekah was the wife of Col. Nelson Converse of Marlboro, on June 23, 1852. Friendship Rebekah Degree Lodge No. 6 was instituted on June 21, 1871, by Grand Master James B. Smart, with nineteen brothers and twelve sisters as charter members. After severe struggles for life, and after much self sacrifice and hard labor on the part of some of the members, the Rebekah lodge has a membership of more than 400.

Monadnock Encampment No. 10 was instituted on July 2, 1868. This body has a membership of about sixty.

The advent of the Degree of Patriarchs Militant, in 1885, gave birth to a canton of that name in Keene, the members of which procured uniforms, and appeared from time to time, and assisted in public affairs.

Beaver Brook Lodge has disbursed for benefits the sum of $13,879.77, and for burial expenses, relief of widows and for charitable purposes the sum of $9,655.91. Six hundred and seventy-one Odd Fellows have been received as members of the lodge.

After nearly losing its organization by lack of interest during and immediately following the Civil war, and at times nearing a state of dormancy, the body is now flourishing and performing praiseworthy acts of benevolence, with a membership of about 340.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Post No. 4, G. A. R., Department of New Hampshire, was organized in Keene, Feb. 3, 1868. It afterwards adopted the name of John Sedgwick Post No. 4. After the first few meetings it occupied the armory of the Keene Light Infantry in the old Methodist church on Vernon street. John W. Babbitt was its first commander, and he was succeeded by Solon A. Carter, D. K. Healey, C. F. Webster and S. G. Griffin. For four years the post was prosperous, but the interest subsided and its meetings ceased in the autumn of 1872.

In 1880, under a new system of organization and ritual, the post was revived and has since been a flourishing and effective body, its complete roll of membership numbering upwards of three hundred.

STREAMS.

The Ashuelot river rises among the hills of Washington, Marlow, Stoddard and Gilsum, flows through Gilsum, Surry, Keene, Swanzey, Winchester and Hinsdale and empties into the Connecticut. Its North branch (sometimes called the Roxbury branch, or "the branch") rises in southwestern Stoddard, Nelson and Sullivan, flows through East Sullivan and along the eastern base of Beech hill, at the south end of which it receives a smaller stream from Dublin and Marlboro, and from that junction to the

Ashuelot, about half a mile north of Swanzey line. Below the junction it is called the East branch. It furnishes the water power at South Keene, and just below the railroad arch a part of the water is taken out and conveyed into the South branch, providing the water power for Swanzey Factory and the electric plant at the outlet of Wilson's pond, in Swanzey. The South branch rises in Troy and Richmond, flows northwest from Troy village, turns toward the southwest through East Swanzey and thence north, passing east of Swanzey Centre, and empties into the Ashuelot about a mile south of the Keene line.

Mill creek is the outlet of water from the mills on West street to the river below; and Bullard's island is formed by the creek and the river.

Roaring brook is the outlet of Woodward's pond in Roxbury, conveys the water about two miles to a small reservoir, whence it is brought in pipes over Beech hill and furnishes the greater part of the aqueduct water for Keene.

Ferry brook rises in Sullivan, runs across the northeast corner of Keene and empties into North branch.

Beaver brook, in early records sometimes called Mill brook, rises in Gilsum, comes down on the west side of Beech hill, furnished the power for the first mills in the township in 1736, flows through the meadows east of the Square, and joins the East branch near the Ashuelot river.

Fisher brook is the small stream that takes its rise in the hills and swamp north of Elm street and flows across Court street one and one-fourth miles north of Central square. The outlet of Goose pond is called Goose Pond brook.

Sturtevant brook rises in Gilsum and the northern part of Keene, flows south and west, passing through "Glen Ellen," and empties into the Ashuelot nearly a mile south of Surry line.

Black brook rises in Surry and the northwestern part of Keene, and empties into the small mill pond at old West Keene.

White brook has two principal branches; one comes down the valley west of the old Westmoreland road, the other along the Chesterfield road, uniting just below the

railroad arch. Above the road that leads south over West mountain was the saw mill of Ebenezer Robbins, afterwards owned by Adin Holbrook and lastly by Joel Kingsbury, which was run by an undershot wheel—the mere force of the current, with considerable fall. Below that mill the water is conveyed by a canal—engineered by Elisha Briggs in 1775—and joins Black brook in the small mill pond.

Ash Swamp brook is formed by the junction of Black and White brooks at the mill pond, flows through the meadows on the west side of the town and empties into the Ashuelot near Swanzey line.

New Rum brook rises at the south end of West mountain, runs into Swanzey, curves to the east and north, crosses under West mountain road near its junction with the Winchester road, and flows into Ash Swamp brook.

HILLS AND ALTITUDES.

Following are the altitudes of hills and certain other points above the sea level taken from the United States geological survey of 1895:

The altitude of Main street, Keene, at railroad crossing is 481 feet.

Beech hill ("Beach" hill, previous to 1811, sometimes called East Beach hill) has an altitude at the highest point at its south end of 1,069 feet; at its north end of 1,060 feet.

West mountain—original name, "West Beach hill;" afterwards "Daniels' hill," from its first settlers; and recently "West hill"—has an altitude of 1,366 feet.

Grimes's hill, northwest of West mountain, has an altitude of 1,140 feet.

Stearns's hill, one mile northeast of Grimes's hill, has an altitude of 1,310 feet.

Gray's hill, two miles north of Stearns's, and overlooking the railroad at the "Summit," has an altitude of 1,385 feet.

These three last mentioned hills were named from families who owned or lived near them for several generations. Aaron Gray and Aaron Gray, Jr., were in the militia companies here in 1773, the latter with two sons, William and

Joseph, both of whom were in the Revolutionary army, and Joseph died in the service in 1776. Hugh Gray, another Revolutionary soldier, was probably of this family.

Bartholomew Grimes was here in 1776, and his descendants still live on the homestead; and the Stearnses have lived on their homestead for many years.

The rise in the highway—formerly longer and steeper than now—from the meadow to the site of the first meetinghouse, where E. F. Lane now lives, was called Meetinghouse hill; and a similar rise in Washington street, east of the present jail, was called Potash hill, from a potash building which stood on its west side.

Biographical Sketches

OF PROMINENT PERSONS WHO WERE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF KEENE, OR, LIVING ELSEWHERE, WERE IN SOME WAY IDENTIFIED WITH THE TOWN.

DANIEL ADAMS.

Dr. Daniel Adams was born in Lincoln, Mass, in 1766; studied medicine with Dr. Gowen, of Weston, Mass.; received the degree of M. D. in 1788; in the same year married Mrs. Sarah, widow of Gen. John Apdaile, of the British army, from Newcastle-on-Tyne, daughter of Benj. Goldthwaite[1] of Boston, and soon afterwards came to Keene. Their journey was made on horseback, and the sidesaddle and whip used by Mrs. Adams are still preserved by the family. At first they lived in the Dunbar, or "plastered" house, on Main street. He afterwards owned and occupied—doubtless built—the colonial house now No. 324 Main street, and died there in 1830. Mrs. Adams died in 1848. They had but one child, Charles Goldthwaite Adams.

Dr. Adams was a druggist and apothecary as well as physician, and prepared his own medicines. He took high rank in his profession, in which he was exceedingly apt and skilful, and for about forty years was a leading man in the town and county. Most of his earlier visits were made on horseback, and he was one of the first to use a wheeled vehicle. He was the third United States postmaster in Keene, receiving his appointment in 1799. In 1805, and for several years afterwards, he published the Medical and Agricultural Register.

[1] Another daughter of Mr. Goldthwaite married Major George Ingersoll (see Ingersoll sketch), and still another, as his second wife, married Dea. James Lanman, who kept the Mount Pleasant House on Marlboro street, now the Daniel R. Cole residence.

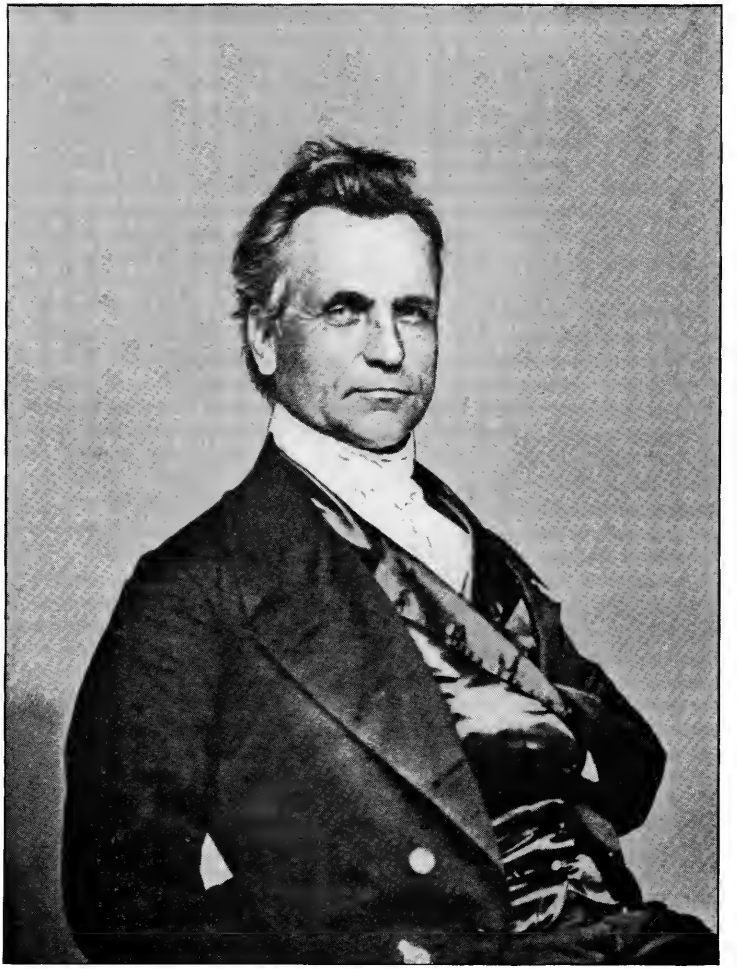
His father was Capt. Joseph Adams, of Lincoln—in his younger days a cornet in the British army, and his commission from King George II, dated in 1759, is still preserved by his descendants. Capt. Daniel Adams (a near relative of Capt. Joseph), and Ephraim Jones—at whose inn the first meeting of the proprietors of Upper Ashuelot was held, June 27, 1734—both of Concord, Mass., in 1737, by order of the provincial authorities, cut a road from Townshend, Mass., to the Ashuelot river, later known as the "old military road," which can still be traced, and for which the "Great and General Court" of Massachusetts neglected to pay them—doubtless because the line established by the king in 1740 between the two provinces left nearly all that road in New Hampshire.

CHARLES GOLDTHWAITE ADAMS.

Dr. Charles Goldthwaite Adams, only child of Dr. Daniel, was born in the "Dunbar house," Keene, in 1793; attended Chesterfield academy; graduated at Dartmouth in 1810—the youngest in his class, yet ranking high;—studied law at Litchfield, Ct., and with Samuel Prescott, Esq., of Keene; but, desiring a more active life studied medicine at Harvard Medical school, took his degree and was appointed demonstrator of anatomy in that school. He was offered professorships at Dartmouth and other medical schools, but came to Keene and devoted himself to regular practice, in which he was highly successful.

In 1821 he married Miss Mary Ann King, of Boston, sister of Mrs. Salma Hale.[1] They had thirteen children, four of whom are still living in town. Their first residence was in the house of his father, but the young doctor soon built the house now owned and occupied by his daughter and her husband, Mr. Lemuel Hayward, and died there in 1856. Mrs. Adams survived until 1885, reaching the age of eighty-five years. Another daughter, Mrs. R. S. Perkins, has for many years owned and occupied the old Wyman tavern, about which clusters so much of historic interest.

[1] The girls were orphans, sent from Boston to Miss Fiske's school in Keene, at the ages of thirteen and nearly fifteen, respectively. Both were remarkably lovely and brilliant women, and they lived side by side in Keene for forty-five years. Several others of the bright, attractive girls of Miss Fiske's school found husbands in Keene.



CHARLES G. ADAMS.

Dr. Adams was not only remarkably successful in his profession—"kind, skilful, honored and trusted"—but he was a man of liberal views, charming manners and uniform courtesy; and his home was a model of simple, genuine, refined hospitality. His name was connected with that of Governor Dinsmoor the younger, as being as polished gentlemen as could be found in any city.

DANIEL ADAMS.

Daniel Adams, M. D., author of arithmetics and other text-books, was born in Townshend, Mass., in 1773; graduated at Dartmouth in 1797; taught school in the old schoolhouse on Main street, Keene, and boarded with Dr. Daniel Adams (of whom he was no relation); studied medicine; settled in Leominster, Mass.; published Scholars' Arithmetic and other school books; removed to Boston, 1806, and taught a private school; removed to Mount Vernon, N. H., in 1813; published Adams's New Arithmetic; came to Keene, 1846; served three terms as state senator; died in Keene in 1864, aged ninety-one.

FOSTER ALEXANDER.

Foster Alexander, lawyer, son of Col. Reuben and Sarah (Foster) Alexander, of Winchester, N. H., was born in Winchester, in 1775; graduated at Dartmouth in 1796; came to Keene the same year and read law with Noah Cooke; was attorney and agent for the town for several years; at one time partner with Levi Chamberlain; town clerk and town treasurer of Keene in 1820-21-22; representative in 1822; for five years moderator of annual town meetings. His office was a small "ten-footer" on the site of the south wing of the present Cheshire House. He was a very tall man; never married; returned to Winchester about 1828; practiced law, and died there in 1841.

AARON APPLETON.

Aaron Appleton, son of Dea. Isaac, of New Ipswich, and brother of Samuel of Boston and Isaac of Dublin, was born in 1768; married Eunice, daughter of Dea. Benj. Adams of New Ipswich; removed to Dublin; successful merchant there; came to Keene, 1814; engaged in glass

manufacturing and general trade with John Elliot (his nephew by marriage and later his brother-in-law) under the firm name of Appleton & Elliot; married, second, 1842, Keziah, daughter of Nathan Bixby, of Keene; no children by either marriage; died June, 1852, aged eighty-three. He lived on the site of the present St. Bernard's church. His widow, Keziah, bought the place next north, where the Widow Ralston had lived, and employed John H. Elliot to build for her on that lot, the present "Appleton house," on Main street. She died in 1870, aged seventy-seven.

JACOB BACON.

Rev. Jacob Bacon, son of Thomas, of Dedham and Wrentham, Mass., was born in Wrentham in 1706; graduated at Harvard in 1731; received degree of A. M., 1734; came to Upper Ashuelot in 1737, and at a meeting of the proprietors on the 26th of October was chosen—as "the worthy Mr. Jacob Bacon"—to draw the lots for all the proprietors in their second division of meadow land. In February following, he was chosen proprietors' clerk and treasurer, and on the 1st day of May, 1738, was unanimously chosen and settled as the first minister of the township. He was ordained on the 18th of October over a church of nineteen members, organized at that time, and remained its pastor—and clerk of the proprietors—until the inhabitants were driven away and the place burned by the Indians, in 1747. He was much respected and beloved.

In June, 1749, he married Mary, daughter of Dr. David Wood of Boxford, Mass., and the same year he was settled over the Third church in Plymouth, Mass., and remained there until 1776. Seven children were born in Plymouth: Mary, Jacob, Thomas; David, born 1754, a soldier in the Revolutionary war, settled in Templeton, Mass., and died there in 1849, aged ninety-five; Oliver, born 1755, was living in Rindge in 1775—one of the patriots to rally at the Lexington alarm, afterwards a lieutenant in the Continental army—settled in Jaffrey and died there; Samuel, born in 1757, Revolutionary patriot, settled in Templeton, Mass., and died there in 1838; Charles, born in 1759, died an infant.

In 1753, he wrote a letter to Hon. Mesech Weare, president of the executive council of New Hampshire, recounting the hardships and privations of the settlers of Upper Ashuelot, and pleading for their rights in the transfer from the jurisdiction of Massachusetts to that of New Hampshire; and claiming a just ownership in his lands there, valued at 1,000 pounds, to which he could show a valid title by legal deeds and bonds.

He married, second, Mary Whitney, who died in Michigan, in 1815, aged eighty-seven.

After leaving Plymouth, he preached eighteen months at Plympton, now Carver, and then retired to Rowley, Mass., where he died, August 14, 1787, in the eighty-first year of his age.

He has many descendants living in Plymouth and Cambridge, Mass., and in various other parts of the country.

THOMAS BAKER.

Thomas Baker, son of Thomas, of Topsfield, Mass., was born about 1730; married Sarah Hale; came from Topsfield with wife and four children in 1760; built a house (still standing) on Boston road (Baker street); established the first tannery in town on the meadow below, near Beaver brook; was tanner, farmer, and magistrate; did much legal business and held important offices in town. His ancestors were among the first settlers of Topsfield and were prominent in civil and military affairs. He was a sergeant in the militia company here in 1773. In 1785 he was appointed a special justice of the court of common pleas for Cheshire county. Towards the close of his life Capt. Ephraim Dorman voluntarily gave all his property to Judge Baker for his maintenance through life; and thus Judge Baker came in possession of all the Capt. Dorman lands. He died in 1806, aged seventy-six, and was buried in the old south yard. His widow, Sarah, died in 1807 Their children were: Thomas, born in Topsfield in 1752, married Mrs. Abbott; Sally, born in Topsfield in 1755, married Rev. Aaron Hall; Olive, born in Topsfield in 1759, married Joshua Prime of Swanzey; Mary, born in Topsfield in 1761, married Benjamin Ellis; Hepzibah, born in

Keene in 1763, married Thaddeus Metcalf and lived on the present William Reed farm; Susanna, born in Keene in 1766, married Daniel Watson; David, Anna and Jonathan.

ZEDEKIAH S. BARSTOW.

Rev. Zedekiah Smith Barstow, D. D.—fifth son, sixth child of John and Susannah (Smith) Barstow, of Canterbury, Ct.—was born in Canterbury in 1790; brought up on a farm; studied in the district school and with tutors; graduated with distinction at Yale college in 1813; taught in Hopkins' grammar school in New Haven—the most noted school in Connecticut—and in Hamilton college; received his master's degree from Yale, 1816, from Hamilton, 1817; studied theology under President Timothy Dwight; was called to the pastorate in Keene, in 1818—ordained July 1—and one month after his ordination married Miss Elizabeth Fay Blake, of Westboro, Mass.

His father was a patriot soldier in the Revolutionary war, afterwards a magistrate, and for forty years a deacon of the church in Canterbury. He was a descendant of John Barstow—the name was Burstow, originally—who came from Yorkshire, Eng., 1630-35, and settled in Cambridge, Mass. His mother was a descendant of Gov. Bradford, of the Pilgrims.

Dr. Barstow was an earnest and powerful champion of education, temperance and all good works, and had a benign influence over his people and the community for more than fifty years—"the wise and faithful friend, the courteous, Christian gentleman, the learned and cultured man of letters, the true and upright citizen." He came to Keene at the time when the strife of Unitarian secession was fiercest, and it was to the able, well-equipped, resolute young pastor, more than to any other human agency, that Keene owed the preservation of its original Congregational church and society. The controversy was sharp and bitter, yet no animosity was left to rankle on either side.

While pursuing his studies in college and elsewhere he paid his expenses by tutoring, and among his pupils were President Woolsey of Yale, Salmon P. Chase, Gerrit Smith,

Rev. Dr. Robinson, Rev. Dr. Barnes, Bishop Ives and many other distinguished men. During all his life in Keene, with the exception of the last few years, he served on school committees; was the projector and champion of the Keene academy, opened in 1837; and for thirty-seven years was a trustee of Dartmouth college, receiving his degree of D. D. from that institution in 1849. He had the best theological library in this part of the country, and the paucity of other volumes of that kind and the numerous calls of borrowers suggested to him the idea of organizing the Cheshire Theological Institute for the benefit of the clergy of Cheshire county. The institute was incorporated in 1830, with a capital stock of $1,000, in shares of $5 each, which were taken by the leading men of Keene and other towns in the county. It had a board of trustees, a librarian, and about 700 volumes of the books best adapted to the purposes of the institute. It continued for about twenty years.

He was the last minister settled by the town; and he officiated until he was eighty years old, and preached the sermon at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination. During his ministry 531 members were added to the church; 221 were dismissed to other churches; he married 379 couples and attended more than 1,000 funerals. When he came to Keene the custom of furnishing liquors at funerals was still in vogue, but he opposed it and it was soon given up.

Mrs. Barstow was remarkable for her loveliness of person and character. She was dignified, refined and capable and efficient in all public and private duties—"the perfect pattern of a pastor's wife." She was a niece of Eli Whitney, the inventor.

When Mr. Barstow first came to Keene he occupied, as his study, the northwest chamber of the house on the corner of Main and Marlboro streets, now the residence of Mr. James Marsh, but immediately upon their marriage they went to live in the house fitted up for them for a parsonage—the old Wyman tavern. There all their children were born; there they celebrated their golden wedding, Aug. 19, 1868; and there both died—Mrs. Barstow,

Sept. 15, 1869, aged seventy-seven; Dr. Barstow, March 1, 1873, on the fifty-fifth anniversary of his first appearance in the pulpit in Keene, aged eighty-two. His funeral services were deeply impressive. Their children were Timothy Dwight, born 1820, died Dec. 22, 1820; William, born 1822, a physician in San Francisco, Cal.; Elizabeth Whitney, born 1824, died 1832; Josiah Whitney, born 1826, married Flora Macdonald (daughter of Dr. James Macdonald, of New York city), for many years in charge of Sanford Hall, a private sanitarium at Flushing, L. I., now a physician in New York city, a man of marked ability in his profession, of polished manners and genial disposition.

SAMUEL BASSETT.

Samuel Bassett was born in Norton, Mass., 1754; came to Keene before he was twenty years old; was a member of the militia company here in 1773; was one of the thirty patriots who marched from Keene under Capt. Isaac Wyman, April 21, 1775; was fifer of that company, and remained with it under Capt. Stiles in the battle of Bunker Hill, and afterwards in the regiment of Col. Paul Dudley Sargeant, (is designated as "freamer" on the Massachusetts roll) and was discharged with his company at the close of that year; enlisted as private in the company of Capt. John Houghton, of Keene, Baldwin's regiment, which marched in September, 1776, to reinforce Washington's army and was in the battle of White Plains; discharged in December of that year. When marching to join its regiment the company halted at the house of Samuel Belding, in Swanzey, and pretty Martha Belding, nineteen years old, drew water for the men to drink. Young Bassett was smitten, and a marriage after the campaign was over was the result. In May, 1777, he joined the company of Capt. Davis Howlett, of Keene, Nichols' regiment, which marched to the relief of Ticonderoga—was out one month and ten days. After the Revolutionary war he was a carpenter and master builder, and a captain in the militia. He lived near where Hon. R. H. Porter now does, but towards the close of his life removed to 33 Marlboro street.

In 1818 a dispute arose as to who was the real commander at Bunker Hill, which included a sharp controversy concerning the conduct of Gen. Putnam in that battle. Among other affidavits from those who were present in the battle was one from Capt. Bassett, which was published in the Sentinel of June 27 of that year.

He died in 1834, aged eighty. His widow survived until 1842, and died at the age of eighty-six.

His children were: Samuel, William, Massa, Patty, Polly, Elias and Nathan, born between 1778 and 1798.

NATHAN BASSETT.

Nathan Bassett, youngest son of Samuel Bassett, was born in 1798; married Harriet, daughter of Lockhart Willard; had ten children; was captain of the Keene Light Infantry in 1823-4; was a noted carpenter and builder, and laid the foundations of our present city hall. He lived on Marlboro street and built the house now No. 47. His son James was drowned in Ashuelot river, July 4, 1833. He removed to Keene, Ohio.

JOSEPH BROWN.

Joseph Brown, son of Joseph and Hepzibah Brown, was born in Keene in 1764; married 1786, Keziah, daughter of Ebenezer and Bathsheba Day; built the little old store still standing at West Keene; kept tavern in what is known as the Ingersoll house, west of the small pond; was one of the most active and enterprising men in town; died Jan. 3, 1836, aged seventy-two; and the same evening his wife, Keziah, died, aged seventy-two. Tradition says that he built the Mount Pleasant House, now D. R. Cole's, on Marlboro street.

NATHAN BLAKE.

Nathan Blake, son of Robert and Sarah (Guild) Blake, was born in Wrentham, Mass., March 13, 1712; one of the first three settlers who attempted to spend the winter of 1736-7 at Upper Ashuelot; built the first log house in town, in 1736, on the lot at the north corner of what are now Main and Winchester streets, where his descendants of the fourth, fifth and sixth generations still reside; one

of the original members of the church at its formation in 1738; one of the thirty-nine who were granted ten acres of upland in 1740 for having lived two years or more in the township and built a house; married, in 1742, Elizabeth, daughter of Abraham Graves, of Lower Ashuelot, formerly of Wrentham; captured by the Indians in 1746 (see text of this history of that date); returned with other settlers in 1749 (he and seventeen others signed two petitions dated at Upper Ashuelot, Feb. 11, 1750), and built one of the first houses erected at that time, on the site of his log cabin, which had been burned by the Indians. Its frame was of heavy, hard wood timber, and its partitions were of yellow, or pitch pine planks two to three inches thick, set on end—evidently a sort of blockhouse for protection against Indians. That house was moved a few rods down Winchester street to give place to the present brick house, built in 1833, and stood there until about 1870. His name is on the alarm list of 1773, and he signed the Association Test in 1776.

After his return from captivity in 1748, he joined Capt. Hobbs's company (or Capt. Marston's) to fight the Indians. (State Papers, vol. 18, page 416.)

At the age of ninety-four he married Mrs. Mary Brinton, "a fascinating widow of sixty-four." Two of his brothers lived to the age of ninety, and one sister to that of ninety-nine.

He lived on his farm until 1811, when he died at the age of ninety-nine years and five months. His wife, Elizabeth, died in 1804, aged eighty-three. Their children were: Esther, born 1742, married Isaac Billings, of Keene; Elizabeth, born 1744; Asahel, born 1749, married Sarah Blake; Nathan, Abel and Abner, who died young.

He came to Upper Ashuelot in 1736 with his brother, Dr. Obadiah, and his sister Sarah, the wife of Thomas Fisher. His brother Elijah came later.

OBADIAH BLAKE.

Dr. Obadiah Blake, son of Robert and Sarah (Guild) Blake, was born in Wrentham, Mass., 1719; one of the first settlers of Upper Ashuelot, in 1737 or 1738, and one

of those who were granted ten acres of upland in 1740 for having lived two years or more in the township and built a house; married, in 1749, Zipporah Harris; married later a second wife, Lydia; lived in the west part, where the stone farmhouse now stands, and where his descendants still reside; had seven children, all by his first wife, three of whom were: Obadiah, the third child, born 1753, a Revolutionary soldier, who succeeded his father as a physician; Royal, born 1756, a Revolutionary soldier, who had ten children, and died 1827; Elijah, born 1763.

He was one of the original members of the church at its formation in 1738, was one of its first deacons, chosen in 1763, and held that position until his death—forty-seven years. In 1750—Feb. 20—he had not yet returned to this township, but, with his brother Elijah (see below) signed a petition at Wrentham for the incorporation of Keene (State Papers, vol. 12, page 309) and was one of the grantees in 1753. His name is on the alarm list of Keene in 1773, but he must have been absent in April, 1776, as he did not sign the Association Test.

He was the second physician in town, Jeremiah Hall having been the first (see sketch of Dr. Hall), and his practice covered a large territory, extending as far as Hardwick and Royalston, Mass., Westminster, Vt., and Croydon, N. H. His journeys, on horseback, by trails or marked trees, were long, and his fees were small, and were usually taken in products of the farm. He had a jocose way of keeping his accounts, sometimes closing them with the entries: "Cancelled in full by poverty;" "Ran away;" "Settled by death;" "Left with Noah Cooke (the lawyer);" and, at long intervals, "Paid in cash to me." He bequeathed his saddlebags, vials and lancet to his son, Obadiah, Jr. He died in 1810, aged ninety-two, and was buried in the west yard, on Bradford street.

NATHAN BLAKE, JR.

Capt. Nathan Blake, Jr., son of Nathan and Elizabeth (Graves) Blake, was born in Keene, 1752; married Bathsheba, daughter of Ebenezer Day (the story of her ride to the fort when a baby is told in the sketch of her father);

member of the military company in 1773; signed the Association Test, 1776; in Capt. Davis Howlett's company for the relief of Ticonderoga, June 29 to July 11, 1777 For some years he and his brother Abel owned and operated the mills on Ashuelot river, and his house near the mills —where Josiah Colony afterwards lived—was seriously damaged by fire in 1789. He had eight children, among them Nathan, born 1784; and Elijah, born 1791. He removed to Vermont, and died in 1813.

ABEL BLAKE.

Capt. Abel Blake, son of Nathan and Elizabeth (Graves) Blake, was born in Keene, 1759; married Sally Richardson of Sudbury, Mass., (Family records. The town records of births give the name Sarah Eveleth); married, second, 1805, Mrs. Jemima Hart of Chesterfield; had five children, all by his first wife—Reuel and Abel being the only sons that lived to manhood. He lived on the homestead, and built, in 1806, the wood house north of the brick one and lived in it twenty-seven years, then sold it and built the brick house in 1833 and spent the remainder of his days there. He was an active and earnest member of the church, and a zealous worker in the temperance cause. He died in 1839, aged eighty.

ABEL BLAKE, JR.

Abel Blake, Jr., son of Capt. Abel and Sally (Richardson) Blake, was born in 1795; educated at the academies at Chesterfield, N. H., and Groton, Mass., and taught school for several years. Both he and his elder brother Reuel were remarkably gifted in penmanship and spent many years in teaching that art. In 1835 he married Hannah T. Monroe; lived on the homestead; had one son, Milton; died 1894, aged ninety-nine years, three months and nineteen days.

JOHN G. BOND.

John G. Bond's name first appears in Keene in 1800. He was partner with Amasa Allen (Allen & Bond) in the first store, so far as is known, on the east side of the Square; succeeded Dr. Daniel Adams as postmaster, 1802–

1808; one of the first directors of Cheshire bank, 1804; married, 1802, Sally, daughter of Hon. Daniel Newcomb; built the house afterwards purchased by Miss Catherine Fiske and used for her school, now the residence of Mrs. E. C. Thayer; removed to Niles, Mich., and became a judge.

WILLIAM M. BOND.

William M. Bond's name first appears in 1802. He was probably a brother of John G. Bond; married, in 1802, Nancy, daughter of Alexander Ralston; partner with Alexander Ralston, Jr., in "the Red store one door north of Wells' (the Ralston) tavern," where he continued for several years; captain of the Ashuelot Cavalry in 1807, and afterwards colonel of the Twentieth regiment of militia.

Mr. and Mrs. Bond lived together until 1823 and brought up "a large and respectable family of children" (nine), when they separated, and a divorce was obtained in another state. Their daughter, Jane, married a Dr. Henry Maxwell, of Lockport, N. Y. Through that connection the divorced couple met, renewed their attachment, and were remarried at Lockport in September, 1831. The children, several of whom had become heads of families, joined in the wedding festivities.

ELISHA BRIGGS.

Elisha Briggs, son of William Briggs of Norton (Taunton), Mass., a millwright, came to Keene in 1762–3. He was a member of the militia company in Keene in 1773; in 1775 he projected the canal and built the original dam and mills where Faulkner & Colony's mills now stand, and "about this time, projected and surveyed the canal, conducting the waters of White Brook into Ash Swamp Brook." (Annals, page 45.) He owned and operated the mills on Beaver brook, where Giffin's mills now are (1901) and also those on the North branch near the upper Roxbury road. He married Mary, and had ten children, born between 1759 and 1795.

ELIPHALET BRIGGS.

Eliphalet Briggs, son of William, of Norton, Mass.,

married Abigail Gay; came to Keene in 1767, or earlier; a member of the alarm list in 1773; died 1780, aged sixty-seven. His wife died in 1781, aged sixty-four.

ELIPHALET BRIGGS.

Capt. Eliphalet Briggs, son of Eliphalet, was born in 1734; married Mary Cobb; came to Keene in 1769, or earlier; was the Eliphalet Briggs, Jr., in the alarm list in 1773, and was an ex-captain of militia at that time; was selectman in 1773 and 1776; was delegate to the convention at Walpole in 1776; died of small pox in 1776, aged forty-two. His wife, Mary, died in 1806, aged sixty-nine.

ELIPHALET BRIGGS.

Eliphalet Briggs, son of Capt. Eliphalet and Mary (Cobb) Briggs; was born in 1765; married Elizabeth, daughter of Capt. Jeremiah Stiles; was a carpenter, joiner and cabinet-maker; built many of the first framed houses in Keene, by "the scratch and scribe rule," framing by the square rule not then having come into use; died in 1827, aged sixty-two. His wife, Elizabeth, died in 1819, aged forty-nine. He had ten children, born 1788-1809, four of them daughters, and the six sons all learned the cabinet-maker's trade and became skilled workmen.

ELIPHALET BRIGGS.

Eliphalet Briggs, son of Eliphalet and Elizabeth (Stiles) Briggs, was born in 1788; married Lucy, daughter of John Brown of Packersfield (owner of Brown's, now Woodward's pond in Roxbury); carpenter and joiner, cabinet and chair maker—first, in the firm of Smith & Briggs on Prison street and in the mills and turning works on Beaver brook, and on the North branch, afterwards alone and then with his son, William S. Briggs; lived on Prison street, where Dr. A. R. Gleason now does (1902), but in the small house now standing next east of Dr. Gleason's; then built and occupied the house opposite, No. 64; was the master mechanic that moved, repaired and finished the meeting-house in 1828 and built the Cheshire House in 1837; was selectman in 1820-30; town clerk, 1823-30; representative, 1831. He was a dignified, courteous gentleman, highly

respected, and always alive to the best interests of the town; a fine natural musician, and for more than thirty years led, with voice and violin, the large mixed choir—sometimes consisting of seventy-five persons—of the First Congregational church; died 1853, aged sixty-five. His wife, Lucy, died in 1845, aged fifty-seven. Their children were Lucius H., Ellen S., Juliette, William S., Elizabeth S., Mary L., Joseph W., Sarah W., born between 1811 and 1829.

WILLIAM S. BRIGGS.

William S. Briggs, son of Eliphalet and Lucy (Brown) Briggs, was born in Keene, 1817; married Nancy Ann, daughter of Dr. Daniel Adams, the author of the arithmetics; was for several years in the furniture business with his father and afterwards alone; was selectman in 1854; representative, 1861-2; director in Cheshire National bank. He recorded many details of the history of the town in articles published in the local papers; lived in Keene until nearly eighty years old; died in Montpelier, Vt., in 1901.

JOSEPH BUFFUM.

Joseph Buffum, son of Joseph and Sally (Haskell) Buffum, was born in Fitchburg, Mass., in 1784; graduated at Dartmouth in 1807; read law with Noah Cooke; began the practice of law in Keene in 1812; postmaster in 1813-18; elected to congress, 1819, and served one term; declined reëlection on account of the corruption and venality in politics; retired to his farm in Westmoreland; never married; died at Westmoreland in 1874.

ALBE CADY.

Albe Cady. His name first appears in Keene records in 1806 as cashier of the Cheshire bank, and he held that position until 1814. He married, in 1806, Sarah, daughter of Capt. John Warner (sister of Mrs. Azel Wilder) and had five children. He owned and lived in what was then considered the finest house in town, at the northeast corner of the common, where Clarke's block now stands. He was town clerk of Keene for five years, selectman four years and representative three years. In 1814 he was

appointed secretary of state, removed to Concord, and was reappointed in 1815. In 1816 he was chairman of the committee that built the present state house at Concord. He was for many years senior warden and a very active member of St. Paul's (Episcopal) church in Concord, and died in that town July 6, 1843, aged seventy-three.

ALBEMARLE CADY.

Gen. Albemarle Cady, son of Albe and Sarah (Warner) Cady, was born in Keene in 1809; appointed from New Hampshire to the West Point military academy; graduated in 1829, and joined the Sixth U. S. Infantry. (His military record is given in "Miscellaneous Organizations" of the Civil war). After serving on frontier and garrison duty until 1838, and being promoted to captain, he served for several years in the war with the Indians in Florida. In the war with Mexico he was present at the siege of Vera Cruz and in the battles of Cerro Gordo, Churubusco and Molino del Rey, at the latter of which he was wounded and won distinction for gallantry, for which he was afterwards promoted. For many years after that war he served in the Indian wars in the West and was promoted to major in 1857 In the early part of the Civil war he served on the Pacific coast, with the rank of lieutenant colonel and colonel, and remained there until 1864, when he was placed in command of a draft rendezvous at New Haven, Ct. In May of that year he was retired for disability resulting from wounds, with the rank of brevet brigadier general in the regular army, granted for long and faithful service. He died at New Haven, Ct., in 1888.

EZRA CARPENTER.

Rev. Ezra Carpenter was born at Rehoboth, (Attleboro), Mass., in 1698; graduated at Harvard in 1720; married in 1823, Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. Thomas Greenwood, of Rehoboth; preached at Hull, Mass., from 1723 to 1746; settled in Swanzey, N. H., in August, 1753, and was ordained over the united churches of Keene and Swanzey, Oct. 4, 1753. His salary was £100 per annum —£50 from each town. That union continued for seven years, and he remained pastor of the church in Swanzey

until 1769, when he was dismissed at his own request.[1] He was given his choice of the two places for residence,[2] and he chose Swanzey. In 1757 he was appointed a chaplain in the Crown Point expedition. He was a man of easy, graceful manners, kind and gentle in disposition, "a pious and faithful shepherd and given to hospitality." He died in Walpole, N. H., in 1785, and a square, slate stone with an inscription marks his grave. Mrs. Carpenter died in 1766, and her gravestone may be seen in the cemetery at Swanzey. They had at least five children—possibly more—one son, who died young, and four daughters, one of whom married Dr. Taylor of Charlestown, N. H., and was the grandmother of Rev. Nathaniel and Miss Elizabeth Sprague of Keene.

ALGERNON SIDNEY CARPENTER.

Dr. Algernon Sidney Carpenter, son of Dr. Eber and Judith (Greene) Carpenter, was born in Alstead, N. H., in 1814, and graduated at Middlebury college. After practicing for a few years in Massachusetts, he came to Keene and was a leading physician for forty-eight years. He married, in 1850, Jane F., daughter of Henry Coolidge, Esq., of Keene, and they had two daughters. In his profession he was skilful, kind, considerate, and successful; in his home and society he was genial, courteous, and large-hearted. He was a man of strong will and positive nature, hating sham and hypocrisy. His ancestors came from Surry, Eng.—where they held high rank—in 1638; and his grandfather, James Carpenter, was a Revolutionary soldier. Dr. Carpenter died in 1885.

LEVI CHAMBERLAIN.

Hon. Levi Chamberlain was born in Worcester, Mass., in 1788 (brother of John C, a distinguished lawyer and

[1] The council that dismissed him had but just left the meetinghouse when a tornado struck it and turned it one-quarter round, so that it faced east instead of south.

[2] The first log meetinghouse in Swanzey, and also the second one, a framed building, were built on "Meetinghouse hill,' and the old Indian fort was on the same elevation. Mr. Carpenter's residence was on the same hill, on the same farm and in the same house now occupied by his great grandson, Mr. George Carpenter; and the same spring of water that supplied the fort is now the source of Mr. Carpenter's water supply; and the hollow pine log that was placed in the spring for a curb, by the first settlers, in 1734, still remains the curb, and is in a good state of preservation.

advocate of Charlestown, N. H.); married in 1835, Harriet A., daughter of Dr. Josiah Goodhue, of Hadley, Mass.; spent two years at Williams college but did not graduate; read law and began practice in Keene in 1814, in a small building on the east side of Main street below Sumner's tavern; was at one time a partner with Foster Alexander; was assistant clerk of the courts; removed to Fitzwilliam in 1819; represented that town in the legislature, 1821–1828; was state senator, 1829–30; county solicitor, 1830; returned to Keene, 1832; representative in 1838, '40, '44, '52 and '61; for several years president of the Cheshire bank; Whig candidate for governor in 1849 and '50; one of the three commissioners from New Hampshire to the Peace congress at Washington, in 1861, called in the attempt to patch up a peace between the North and the South. Mr. Chamberlain was an able lawyer, a judicious, confidential adviser; of agreeable, dignified manners; genial and witty; and many of his bright sayings were repeated about town and through the state.[1] He died in 1868.

ITHAMAR CHASE.

Ithamar Chase, son of Dudley and Alice (Corbett) Chase, was born in Cornish, N. H., in 1763; married Janette, daughter of Alexander Ralston, of Keene; came to Keene in 1813–14; kept the old Ralston tavern; was member of the state council 1812–16; died in 1817. The burial service of the Episcopal church was read for the first time in Keene at his funeral, and made a deep impression.

SALMON P. CHASE.

Salmon P. Chase, son of Ithamar and Janette (Ralston) Chase, was born in Cornish, Jan. 13, 1808, the eighth of eleven children; came to Keene with his parents when about ten years old. He wrote that his first attendance at school in Keene was "in a dark room with a great many boys in it, on our (the west) side of the street between my father's house and the meetinghouse," doubtless over the old Cheshire bank, where the railroad depot now

[1] As a specimen of his wit it may be related that when looking for his wraps as he was leaving a party one evening he asked, "Now what rascal has gone off with his good new hat and left me my poor old one?"

stands, as Miss C. Aldrich taught there at that time. He and his sister, Ann, afterwards attended the "family school" which Rev. Z. S. Barstow had opened at his own house. Dr. Barstow, in his reminiscences, says of him: "Chase was a rather raw and uncouth lad, but very talented, and an apt scholar. He was then ten years old, and very small for his age. His sister, Ann Chase, was older, and a very superior girl. Both read Virgil and Euclid with me and I was very fond of them."

Salmon's father had invested his wife's share of the Ralston estate in the glass business in Keene, and when that failed, and the father died, the family was left very poor, and the mother with her large family of children removed from the tavern to a "yellow, story-and-half house (on the north corner of Main and Marlboro streets) where the guideboard said 'To Swanzey, 7 m's.,' and 'To Boston, 77 m's.'" (S. P. Chase's own words.) From that house his sister Ann was married, in 1818, and his brother Dudley, went to sea and never returned. For two years Salmon was at school with his uncle, Philander Chase, first bishop of Ohio, and after spending a year at a college in Cincinnati, returned to Keene—walking from Troy, N. Y., via Bennington and Brattleboro—and continued his studies. Not long after his return (some accounts say when he was fifteen, others when he was seventeen years old, and it may have been during his winter vacation in college) a committee from Roxbury, N. H., "engaged him to teach a school at $8.00 per month and 'board around.' There was a goodly number of pupils, both boys and girls, of all ages, some older than himself." It was in the little old schoolhouse still standing at the foot of Nye's hill on the road from Keene to Roxbury. There was insubordination and punishment, and before the end of two weeks he was notified that his services were no longer required. He then pursued his studies, partly at Royalton, Vt., entered Dartmouth college as a junior and graduated at the age of eighteen.

He went to Washington, D. C.; studied law four years under William Wirt; began practice in Cincinnati at the age of twenty-two, and rose to the position of governor

of Ohio, United States senator, secretary of the United States treasury during the Civil war, and chief justice of the supreme court of the United States.

JOHN COLONY.

John Colony (original name spelled as at present, but written Connoly and Conley in the early town records) was born in Kilkenny, Ireland, in 1730; came to Wrentham, Mass., about the year 1740; enlisted in the army in the last French and Indian war, 1755–60; joined Capt. Rogers's famous corps of rangers; was in the battle near Fort Edward when Major Israel Putnam was captured and tied to a tree to be burned, but was finally released; served nearly through the whole war. For that service he received a grant of land in Maine, which he exchanged for a tract on Saxton's river, near the village of Grafton, Vt. In 1761 he married Melatiah, sister of Ichabod Fisher, one of the early settlers of Keene, came to Keene about the same time and bought the farm in the west part which still remains in the possession of his descendants — his great granddaughter, Martha Colony, and her husband, William H. Woodward, now occupying the homestead.

He was a man of great energy and courage. At one time during the war he was in a fort, to which the settlers had fled with their families, besieged by the French and Indians. The infant children were in great need of milk, cows were grazing just beyond the enemy's outposts, and young Colony volunteered to get the milk. Taking his gun, his pail and his trusty dog, he stole through the enemy's lines, reached the cows, filled his pail, and started to return. When nearly half way to the fort his dog barked, and turning, he confronted an Indian, whom he quickly shot, then picked up his pail and ran for the fort. The dog and the gun had roused the savages and they followed in hot pursuit, but Colony reached the fort in safety, with his pail of milk intact. At another time, after he came to Keene, he heard a large bear foraging at night in his cornfield, a little to the southwest of his log cabin. He took the old musket that he had carried through the war and went out and shot him, and had his skin for a trophy.

He died in 1797. His children were: Hannah, born in 1762; Timothy, born in 1764; Melatiah, born in 1766; and Josiah, born in 1774.

TIMOTHY COLONY.

Timothy Colony, son of John and Melatiah (Fisher) Colony, was born in Keene in 1764; married Sarah, daughter of Benjamin Dwinnell (her mother, Mary Estes Dwinnell, was a descendant of the parents of Rebecca (Towne) Nurse, who was hanged as a witch in 1692; see sketch of Phineas Nourse); lived on the Colony homestead; had Josiah, born 1791, Polly, born 1793, John, born 1795, Joshua D., born 1804, and three other children. He died in 1836, aged seventy-two.

JOSIAH COLONY.

Josiah Colony, eldest son of Timothy and Sarah (Dwinnell) Colony, and grandson of John Colony above, was born in 1791; brought up on the farm; educated in the public schools and by his own efforts in extensive reading and study, gaining thereby unusual general intelligence. Robust and athletic, and displaying a remarkable aptitude for mechanics, he was employed in early manhood in running the saw and grist mills where the Faulkner & Colony mills now stand. While thus employed, in 1814, he enlisted in the company of Capt. James M. Warner, of Acworth, in the regiment of Lt. Col. John Steele, of Peterboro, of the detached militia sent to Portsmouth in September to defend that town and harbor from an attack of the British, then threatened. After a service of sixty days, when the danger was passed, he was discharged, with his company.

In 1815, he formed a partnership with Francis Faulkner, clothier, and with him bought all the mills and water privileges where he had been at work, except those owned by Azel Wilder, west of the sawmill, and established and carried on a successful business, which their descendants still continue, greatly enlarged.

In 1817, Mr. Colony married Hannah, daughter of Danforth Taylor, of Stoddard. The children by this marriage were Timothy, George D., Henry, Mary A., Alfred

T., John E. and Horatio, born between 1819 and 1835. In 1853, he married for his second wife, Mrs. Jane (Briggs) Buell, by whom he had one son, Josiah D., born in 1855. He died in 1867, aged seventy-six.

Mr. Colony was a remarkably keen observer,[1] shrewd and persistent in his business affairs, but of the strictest integrity. He never sought public office, but was generous and public spirited in everything that pertained to the welfare of the community.

JOSHUA D. COLONY.

Joshua D. Colony, (named for Capt. Joshua Durant), son of Timothy and Sarah (Dwinnell) Colony, was born in 1804; had a common school education; when a young man was a clerk in the Phœnix Hotel; began business in 1828 with Elbridge Keyes (Keyes & Colony) in the west end of Wilders' building (now Ball's block). The firm built a three-story brick store in 1832, on the site of the present postoffice, and moved into it in 1833. That firm dissolved in 1844, and Mr. Colony, with his nephew, Timothy Colony (J. D. & T. Colony) succeeded Sumner Wheeler & Co., in Perry's block, on the east side of the Square, where Colony's block now stands. They afterwards took in Timothy Colony's brother, Henry (J. D. Colony & Co.), and added to their business the manufacture of window glass at the old works on the site of the present jail—the last of glass-making in Keene. That firm dissolved in 1850, and Mr. Colony, with Geo. W. Tilden (Tilden & Colony) took the old Lamson store, on the east side of the Square, then owned by Geo. H. Richards. In 1853, Mr. Colony was appointed postmaster, and he held that office eight years, through the administrations of Presidents Pierce and Buchanan—keeping the office at his store.

In 1855, the Cheshire County bank was organized (now the Keene National). Mr. Tilden retired from the firm to

[1] Many of Mr. Colony's bright and witty sayings were repeated, one of which, showing the clearness of his financial vision, is given here. During the Civil war, when paper money was in great abundance and business was exceedingly profitable, the firm invested largely in real estate. At one time Mr. Colony bargained for a tract of land in Ash Swamp meadows, and asked his partner, Mr. Charles S. Faulkner to go with him to look at it. Arriving on the land Mr. Faulkner looked it over and said: "Why, Mr. Colony, this is very poor land. It doesn't bear anything but checkerberries." "Yes, yes," said Mr. Colony, "but a bushel of checkerberries will be worth as much as a bushel of greenbacks if this war continues."

become its cashier, and his place was taken by Mr. Colony's son, Lewis J. (J. D. & L. J. Colony). In 1860 the firm sold out their mercantile business and bought the cotton mill at Munsonville. A few years later the Cheshire Republican was purchased by J. D. Colony & Sons, including Ormond E. and Oscar L., who had been in the firm since 1860—the father assuming the chief editorial work and management—and that property still continues under the same firm name, in the possession of the son, Oscar L. Colony.

Mr. Colony married, 1831, Frances Seamans Blake, daughter of Ira and granddaughter of Dr. Obadiah Blake of Keene. Her mother was a daughter of Aaron Seamans, one of the active business men of Keene in the early days, who, in partnership with Moses Johnson, had potash and pearlash works and a distillery on what is now Castle street, a tannery in rear of the present Eagle Hotel, and, with Ebenezer Daniels, a large shoe manufactory on Main street; and built and lived in what is now 72 School street.

Mr. Colony had three sons, named above, and three daughters, Frances M., Sarah and Hannah. He died in 1891.

NOAH COOKE.

Noah Cooke, "a descendant of Major Aaron Cook, who came to this country in 1630 and commenced the settlement of Dorchester, Mass., afterwards removed to Connecticut;" was born at Hadley, Mass., in 1749; graduated at Harvard in 1769; studied divinity, and was licensed to preach, in 1771; joined the American forces at Winter Hill in October, 1775; "received his first commission as chaplain, dated January 1st, 1776, 'embracing the Fifth regiment of foot commanded by Col. John Stark, and the Eighth regiment commanded by Col. Enoch Poor, in the army of the United States.' In 1777 (to 1780) he was chaplain to the hospital of the Eastern department. These commissions entitled him to the rank and pay of a colonel." (History of New Ipswich). He served till Oct. 3, 1780. Soon after leaving the army he came to Keene; read law with Daniel Newcomb, Esq.; was admitted to the bar in

January, 1784; married Mary (Polly), daughter of Nathaniel Rockwood of Winchester, N. H., in the same month and removed to New Ipswich the same year; bought of Daniel Newcomb, in 1790, the "Cooke place" on Pleasant street; came to Keene in 1791, built the "Cooke house" (still standing, on West street), and made that his homestead, and died there in 1829, aged eighty. During the last years of his life his office was in the northwest parlor of that house. Previous to that it had been on the east side of Main street, below the Edwards tavern, and later on the east side of the Square. He was for many years one of the leading lawyers in the county; for ten years—1795 to 1804—town clerk of Keene; and was an upright, honorable man, much respected by the whole community. His children were: Noah, born in New Ipswich, 1785; died in Keene, 1791. Josiah Parsons, born in New Ipswich in 1787; studied with his father; married Mary Pratt, of Boston; went to that city and became an eminent and very successful lawyer. Polly (Mary), born in New Ipswich, 1788; married Rev. Silas Wilder of Keene. Noah R., born in Keene, 1792.

Mr. Cooke married for his second wife, Mrs. Moore, of Bolton, Mass.

HENRY COOLIDGE.

Henry Coolidge came from Massachusetts when a young man and entered Abijah Foster's store at West Keene as a clerk; married Calista, daughter of Abiathar Pond, of Keene; with his brother-in-law (Pond & Coolidge) bought out Mr. Foster in 1809; was afterwards the popular—and the last—landlord of the old Ralston tavern; did much business in the town and county as a surveyor of land; was for many years clerk of the court and held that office at the time of his death; did a large amount of legal business as magistrate; was state senator in 1837; had six children, one of whom, Jane F., married Dr. A. S. Carpenter of Keene; died in 1843, aged fifty-six.

KENDALL CROSSFIELD.

Kendall Crossfield, son of Samuel and Hannah Crossfield, was born about 1808; married Rebecca Graves, of

Cooke House and Elm, West Street. House Built 1791.

Walpole; came from Peterboro to Keene in 1835; lived first on Beech hill, then in the house now No. 33 Marlboro street; had nine children; married, second, Rebecca Martin of Walpole. He was an excellent mechanic, contractor and builder, public spirited and active in general affairs, and had an unusual talent for music. His son, Wm. K., enlisted in the Sixth New Hampshire Volunteers in 1861, rose to the rank of captain and was killed at Petersburg, Va., July 30, 1864.

SAMUEL AND EBENEZER DANIELS.

Samuel and Ebenezer Daniels came to Upper Ashuelot, from Wrentham, Mass., previous to 1740, and settled on the hill in the southwest part of the town; and for many years it was called Daniels' hill, now West mountain. They and some of their descendants lived there for more than one hundred years—until about 1850.

CHARLES BELDING DANIELS.

Capt. Charles Belding Daniels, son of Jabez and Eleanor (Chapman) Daniels, was born in Keene, in 1816; entered West Point Military academy from Rutland, Vt.; graduated in 1836; was in the Florida war; in the Second U. S. artillery in the Mexican war; on staff duty in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma; on staff of Gen. Worth at the battle of Monterey and was mentioned for gallant services; was in the battle of Buena Vista; mortally wounded at Molina del Rey, and died at the city of Mexico, Oct. 26, 1847; a man of high character and genial manners, and a notably fine soldier. His remains were brought to Keene and buried from the First Congregational church.

AARON DAVIS.

Aaron Davis, son of Aaron, a Revolutionary soldier (who lived with his son here in Keene), was born in Peacham, Vt., in 1788; came to Keene when a young man; was a blacksmith, large and muscular; married Rebecca Nourse, of Keene; partner with John Towns in a shop on Main street near the present railroad station; bought the water privilege at South Keene in 1824; built

a shop with a trip-hammer (first in this vicinity) and made hoes, axes and other tools; built an iron foundry and made ploughs, and, later, took William Lamson in as partner in the manufacture of firearms. Charcoal was the principal fuel, but anthracite was used for melting iron—brought up the Connecticut river in vessels and hauled thence with teams. Iron ore was hauled from Vermont at a cost of $60 per ton, delivered. About 1836, he formed a partnership with Thomas M. Edwards and George Page; turned his hoe factory into a machine shop; J. A. Fay and Edward Joslin joined, and the manufacture of wood-working machinery, which has since been so profitable and so largely developed, was begun. Messrs. Davis, Page and Edwards afterwards sold out, and Fay and Joslin, under the firm name of J. A. Fay & Co., continued the business.

Mr. Davis had nine children, born between 1816 and 1835. Francis, the fourth, married Sophronia Nourse, of Keene; Ellen Rebecca married Francis E. Keyes, of Keene.

Mr. Davis died in 1857, aged sixty-nine.

EBENEZER DAY.

Ebenezer Day was one of the early settlers; an original member of the church at its formation in 1738; served in Capt. Willard's company of soldiers here in 1747-8; lived on the farm recently known as the Carpenter farm, the last but one in Keene on the old road to Surry, east side of the river, where he and his sons kept tavern for many years. When the Indian war broke out in 1755, he and his neighbor, Peter Hayward, who had settled a few hundred yards north of him, were "hurriedly warned of an attack by the Indians at Upper Ashuelot. My father (Mr. Day) came in great haste from his work, saddled his horse and told my mother to get ready quickly to ride to the fort. They started at once—father in the saddle (doubtless with little Ruth, four years old, in his arms), mother on the pillion behind, clinging with one hand to her husband and with the other grasping the meal sack into which the baby (Bathsheba, about one year old) had been hastily dumped for greater convenience in transportation (carrying it dangling beside the horse). The fort was reached in

safety, but, on alighting from the horse, the sack was opened and the baby was found with her head downwards, having made the journey of four perilous miles in that abnormal position. No ill consequences, however, resulted from the baby's inversion." (Mrs. Adin Holbrook —Hannah Day—sister of the baby.) That baby lived to marry Nathan Blake, Jr., in 1780, and to have eight children.

Mr. Day died in 1776, aged sixty-three, and was the first to be buried in the north burying ground. His wife, Bathsheba, died in 1798. Two of their sons, Ebenezer, Jr., and Daniel, were volunteers in the Revolutionary army in 1777, and Daniel again volunteered in 1779 and in 1780. Their daughter Hannah married Adin Holbrook in 1780.

SAMUEL DINSMOOR.

Samuel Dinsmoor, (commonly spoken of as "the elder Governor Dinsmoor") son of William and Elizabeth (Cochrane) Dinsmoor, was born in Windham, N. H., in 1766, and was the fourth son in a family of ten children.

His father was third in descent from a sturdy Scotch-Irish pioneer—one of the band that settled Londonderry and Windham—and was a typical representative of that noble race, inventing and constructing most of the implements with which he cleared and successfully cultivated his inheritance of 1,400 acres of primitive forest. Notwithstanding the hardships of such a life, with its limited supply of books, he displayed a taste for literature and a gift for versification which was further developed in his son, Robert, who achieved celebrity under the name of the "Rustic Bard."

Having a strong desire for an education, young Dinsmoor readily obtained the consent of his parents, studied for a while under Rev. Simon Williams—walking eight miles each day for that purpose—and entered Dartmouth college in 1785, his father sending an ox team to carry his small outfit. To aid in paying his expenses he taught school in winter, and, with the consent of the faculty, opened a small store for the sale of goods bought in Boston and hauled to Hanover by his brothers with ox teams.

He graduated in 1789, studied law with Hon. Peleg Sprague, in Keene, and by Mr. Sprague's advice and encouragement made this town his permanent home.

He married, in 1798, Mary Boyd Reid, daughter of Gen. George and Mary (Woodburn) Reid of Londonderry. She was noted for her lovely character and agreeable manners, and as being the wife of one governor of New Hampshire and the mother of another. Her father was a distinguished commander of one of the three Continental regiments of New Hampshire in the Revolutionary war.

The Dinsmoors first lived in a house which stood on the site now occupied by the rear of the south end of Gurnsey's block. After the death of Mr. Sprague in 1800, Mr. Dinsmoor bought the "Sprague house," on the west side of Main street, now (1902) Mrs. Laton Martin's, and they spent the remainder of their days there.

His first law office was a small building just north of his first residence, but he afterwards succeeded Judge Newcomb in another small building where the railroad track now lies, on the east side of Main street. That building was removed when the railroad was built and is now the residence of Mr. George E. Poole, 320 Roxbury street.

In 1804–5 he was active in the reorganization of the celebrated Keene Light Infantry, was chosen captain, and commanded it with brilliant success until 1809, when he was promoted to major in the Twentieth regiment of militia; and the same year was appointed quartermaster general of the state, with the rank of brigadier general, which office he held during the war of 1812, and until 1816.

In 1808 he was appointed postmaster, succeeded in 1811—when he took his seat in congress—by his partner, Booz M. Atherton. He was reëlected to congress in 1812, and his votes there in support of the administration and in favor of the war with England so exasperated those of the opposite party in Cheshire county that upon his return from Washington, fearing for his personal safety, his friends in Keene formed themselves into a bodyguard for his protection. In 1821–2 he was a member of the state council; in 1823 a candidate for governor, but there was

no choice by the people, and Levi Woodbury was elected. In 1830 he was the Democratic candidate for governor, and was elected in 1831 and for three consecutive terms —for the second and third terms almost without opposition.

"His official career was characterized by a spirit of impartial and disinterested thought for the welfare of the state. A conspicuous instance of this was his appointment of the late Chief Justice Joel Parker, a Whig, to a vacancy on the bench of the supreme court." It was he who first recommended to the legislature the establishment of a state asylum for the insane.

He was the first president of the Ashuelot bank, in 1833, holding that office until his decease; and he filled many responsible positions in town and state, always with ability and strict integrity, and was a leader in all enterprises for the public good. He entertained much and very handsomely; and in his private life his geniality and winning manners made him loved and honored by all who knew him.

He died March 15, 1835, surviving his wife about three months. His children were Samuel, born in 1799; Mary Eliza, born in 1801, married Robert Means of Amherst, N. H.; George Reid, born in 1803; and William, born in 1805.

SAMUEL DINSMOOR.

Samuel Dinsmoor, LL. D.—"the younger Governor Dinsmoor"—son of Samuel and Mary B. (Reid) Dinsmoor, was born in 1799; entered Dartmouth college at the age of eleven and graduated at fifteen. While yet very young he was sent to Europe on business for the family, giving him access to the best society and a thorough knowledge of the French language, then a rare accomplishment. He read law with his father; was admitted to the bar at the age of 19; in the next year, 1819, was appointed secretary to Gen. James Miller, then governor of Arkansas territory; returned to Keene after three years; practiced law; was chosen cashier of the Ashuelot bank and held that position until the death of his father, whom he succeeded as president, and continued in that capacity until he died, in 1869.

His polished manners and elegant handwriting led to his election as clerk of the state senate in 1826, and he held that office four terms. In 1849 he was elected governor of New Hampshire and served with great popularity through three successive terms. His administration, like that of his father, was honorable and statesmanlike; and he was distinguished for his fine presence, his genial and courteous manners and his cultivated mind.

In 1844 he married Anne Eliza, daughter of Hon. William Jarvis, of Weathersfield, Vt., by whom he had two children, Samuel and William. Mrs. Dinsmoor died in 1849. He afterwards married Mrs. Catherine, widow of Hon. Charles J. Fox, daughter of Daniel Abbott, Esq., of Nashua, a lady remarkable for elegance and dignity of manners and high character. After his first marriage he lived in the Phineas Fiske house, and bought the place in 1849. After his second marriage he moved that house back to the corner of Winchester and Madison streets, where it still stands, and built the present mansion on the Fiske lot, corner Main and Winchester streets. To enlarge his lot he also bought the Widow Newcomb cottage, next south, and moved that back, and it stands next to the Fiske house, on Madison street.

WILLIAM DINSMOOR.

William Dinsmoor, son of the elder governor, was born in 1805; attended the Norwich Military academy, in Vermont, under the celebrated Capt. Partridge; was postmaster at Keene under President Jackson; and was director and president of the Ashuelot bank. He married, in 1835, Julia Anne, daughter of Phineas Fiske, of Keene, who died Jan. 5, 1854, leaving three children, Mary B., George R. and Frank Fiske. He lived in the brick house built by his father next his own on Main street, until 1880, when he removed to the present family residence on Washington street, where he died in 1884.

EPHRAIM DORMAN.

Capt. Ephraim Dorman, son of Lieut. Ephraim, of Topsfield, Mass., was born in 1710; married Hepzibah

Peabody, of Boxford; came to Upper Ashuelot as early as 1738; gave the alarm when the Indians attacked the place in 1746, and had a personal encounter with one of the savages; was lieutenant in the militia in the last French and Indian war; captain of the military company in Keene in 1773-5; owned much land in the township and was a leading man in the community. After his wife died, Jan. 16, 1781, he gave his property to his friend, Thomas Baker, Esq., who came from the same town, for his support and maintenance, lived with him in the Dorman house, which is still standing on the sand knoll, Baker street, died there in 1795, and was buried in the old south yard. His homestead is shown on the map of 1750, on the east side of Main street, just north of the Boston road, where Mr. E. A. Fox now lives. He had one son, Benjamin, and one daughter, Mary.

Wm. S. Briggs, in his "mortuary" on the old burying ground in Ash Swamp, says that Isaac Clark "married Mary Dorman, daughter of Ephraim Dorman, December 22, 1751." He then goes on to repeat Mr. Hale's story in his Annals of Keene of Mrs. Clark's race with the Indian in the massacre of 1746, saying that the woman was Mary Dorman before she married Mr. Clark. But her father, Ephraim Dorman, was only thirty-six years old at that time, and it seems hardly probable that Mr. Hale, who wrote seventy-five years afterwards, should have called so young a girl as she must have been "Mrs. Clark," even if she afterwards married Mr. Clark. It is much more probable that that race was run by a previous Mrs. Clark.

JOHN DRAPER.

"John Draper and his wife came from Watertown to Keene, about this time, (1795) and established themselves in West-street.—They were once rich, and it is related of her that, when the British had possession of Boston, in 1776, she several times rode into Boston, in a chaise, and brought back kegs of powder concealed under her cloak. She was a little startled when, on one occasion, her horse being frightened, a British officer took hold of the bridle, and led him along until he became calm. It is also said that a portion of her time was occupied in running bullets for the rebels, which, until wanted for use, were hid in the hay-mow." (Annals, page 79.)

John Draper lived and had his shop as fancy butcher, baker and candle maker on Pleasant street (in the little old yellow house mentioned in this history; see map of 1800), succeeding Ichabod Fisher, the first trader in Keene.

Another version of the story of Mary Draper, his wife, is, that when the Revolutionary war broke out she was living with her family on a large farm near the Dedham line. When the Lexington alarm came, she started all the men on the farm off to join the patriot army, and heated her two great brick ovens red hot. Then she and her daughter Kate went to baking bread. They set out tables in front of the house and kept them spread with bread and cheese and buckets of cider. Soon the minute men began to pass, and for two days they kept it up, and all ate, drank and were refreshed with her "good cheer." Among the last to be served were Gen. Putnam and his soldiers from Connecticut. When the call for bullets came, she procured bullet moulds and with her own hands melted every piece of pewter in the house and ran it into bullets. Then she took the bullets, with some powder, on horseback and carried them to the patriot army. She was stopped by the British guard, but answered questions so adroitly as to escape detection. Later, when the "rebels" needed blankets and clothing, she spun and wove all the wool from her ample flocks for their benefit. Those bullet moulds and a family Bible printed in 1769 are still in possesion of her descendants.

When the organization called the Daughters of the American Revolution was formed in Boston, they named one of their chapters "The Mary Draper Chapter" of the D. A. R.

ASA DUNBAR.

Asa Dunbar, son of Samuel of Bridgewater, Mass., was born in 1745; graduated at Harvard in 1767; preached a short time at Bedford, Mass.; settled in the ministry at Salem, Mass.; was a preacher of superior ability; his health failed, and he was dismissed at his own request in 1779; read law with Joshua Abbott of Amherst; settled as a lawyer in Keene in 1783; excelled as an advocate; married Mary, sister of Daniel Jones, the noted

lawyer of Hinsdale; was a prominent Mason, master of Rising Sun Lodge; died while town clerk, June 22, 1787, highly esteemed; was buried with Masonic honors. His children were; Polly, born in Salem, 1773; William, born in Weston, 1776; Charles, born in Harvard, 1780; Sophia, born in Harvard, 1781; Louisa, born in Keene, 1785; Cynthia, born in Keene, 1787, married Thoreau, and was the mother of Henry D. Thoreau, the celebrated writer of Concord, Mass.

ELIJAH DUNBAR.

Elijah Dunbar, son of Samuel of Bridgewater (who was the elder half-brother of Asa above), was born in Bridgewater in 1759; graduated at Dartmouth in 1782; took deacon's orders in the Episcopal church; came to Keene soon after graduating, and, with Ithamar Chase, held the first Episcopal service in town; married Mary, daughter of Alexander Ralston; read law with his uncle Asa, and was a leading lawyer in the county for many years; at one time partner with Samuel Prescott, at another with Joel Parker; first cashier of the Cheshire bank; built the present residence of W H. Elliot, but never lived in it, and sold to Nathan Bixby and John Elliot; lived in the "plastered house," formerly the Bullard Coffee House, where Isaac N. Spencer now lives, and had a large garden extending down to Water street; Dunbar street was named for him; lived in Claremont, 1797-1804; returned to Keene; represented Keene in the legislature in 1806 and 1810; died in 1847, aged eighty-eight. His children were: George Frederic, born in 1794, married Catherine Fisk, of Westmoreland; Laura Elizabeth, born in 1813, married Robert Ralston (her cousin), still living in Washington, D. C. (1900), a bright and interesting woman.

JOSHUA DURANT.

Capt. Joshua Durant—of Huguenot descent—was in the company of Capt. Joseph Whitcomb of Swanzey, at the Lexington alarm, April 21, 1775, and marched to Cambridge; enlisted for eight months; reënlisted for the following winter and served one year, in all, at that time; came to Keene; enlisted as a private from Keene in the

company of Capt. Elisha Mack, July 22, 1777, and was in the battle of Bennington; joined Capt. Nehemiah Houghton's company, Nichols' regiment, as ensign, June 29, 1780, and served at West Point under Gen. Arnold; was discharged in October of that year; was afterwards captain of militia. When he first came to Keene he lived on the "Ben Gurler farm," West Keene, now T. M. Aldrich's. In 1793 he bought of Joseph Brown the farm now owned by Prof. Bracq, and sold it to Thomas Baker in 1807. He married, in 1780, Unity, daughter of Deacon Simeon Clark, of Keene. They had five children.

THOMAS EDWARDS.

Dr. Thomas Edwards, son of Thomas and Mary (McKey) Edwards, was born in Middletown, Ct., 1757, and spent most of his boyhood on a farm at Springfield, Vt. His great grandfather, Thomas, came from Wales, Eng., and settled in Boston, whence his son removed to Middletown. In January, 1776, young Edwards volunteered in the patriot army, was in the siege of Quebec and the disastrous retreat that followed, and was mustered out of service in the fall of that year. He then began the study of medicine, reading all the books he could get at Springfield; came to Keene and studied under Dr. Thomas Frink; went to Providence, R. I., and completed his studies, and was for two years a physician and apothecary there. He came to Keene soon after 1780, and for many years was the leading physician of the town, taking long rides on horseback, over trails and rough roads, with his medicines in his saddlebags, at twenty-five cents a visit.

In April, 1784, "Thomas Edwards of Keene, Physician," bought of Oliver Hall the place now known as the "Cooke place" on West street—then three and one-half acres—for £180. Four years later he sold the same—"the Farm or Tract of Land whereon I now dwell"—to Daniel Newcomb, for £200.[1] In 1787 he married Matilda, sister of Lemuel Chandler, who came from Pomfret, Ct., and kept the Chandler House, then a popular inn, on the site of the

[1] Daniel Newcomb sold the same place, two years later, to Noah Cooke, for the same price, which makes it evident that Cooke built the present house, although there must have been a smaller one there before.

present Cheshire House. In her youth, Miss Chandler was noted for her personal beauty. Mr. Chandler died in 1789, and in 1795, Dr. Edwards bought the Chandler House and was its landlord until 1804. In 1795, he bought 100 acres lying on both sides of Roxbury street, devoted much time to his farm, made bricks on the meadow where Franklin and Dover streets now are, and in 1805, or previous to that year, built the house on Roxbury street, now the residence of Mrs. Josiah Colony, and died there in 1837, aged eighty. Mrs. Edwards died in 1843, aged eighty Their children were: Mary, who married Benjamin Kimball; Sarah, who married John Hatch; and Thomas McKey. It is related of Dr. Edwards, who was an excellent citizen, kind and obliging, that after he was seventy-five years old he thrashed a stalwart young farmer weighing 200 pounds for using insulting language towards him; and that the farmer was ever afterwards his staunch friend.

THOMAS M. EDWARDS.

Hon. Thomas McKey Edwards, son of Dr. Thomas and Matilda (Chandler) Edwards, was born in Keene in 1795; prepared for college under Rev. John Sabin of Fitzwilliam; graduated at Dartmouth, 1813; read law with Foster Alexander, Esq., of Keene, Hon. Thomas Burgess, of Providence, R. I., and Hon. Henry Hubbard of Charlestown, N. H.; began the practice of his profession in Keene in 1817, and continued it for about thirty years; succeeded his father in the homestead on Roxbury street; was postmaster at Keene 1817–1829; member of the New Hampshire legislature eight years between 1834 and 1856; was presidential elector in 1856; served two terms in congress, 1859–1863, where he was appointed on important committees, and was frequently called to the chair by the speaker; "and his services at Washington were distinguished by unwearied industry, the strictest integrity, and great fidelity to his constituents." (Boston Journal, obit.)

In 1845 he was chosen president of the Cheshire railroad; and he gave up the practice of law—except as consulting attorney and referee in important cases—and

devoted all his time and energies to the interests of that road. The route was a difficult one, funds were scarce, contractors failed, riots among the laborers had to be quelled, and it required all of his great executive ability to carry the work along. But he was virtually counsel for the road as well as its president, and his keen intellect, sound judgment and untiring industry overcame every obstacle and ensured success. He has been called the father of the Cheshire railroad, and it was by his influence that its shops were built in Keene.

In town affairs he was closely identified with all those measures that were for the best interests of the people; and for many years he was counsel and agent for the town. In 1869 he was chosen president of the Ashuelot bank and held that office until his death, and he was connected with many other institutions.

In 1840 he married Mary H., daughter of Phineas Fiske, of Keene, and they had five daughters and two sons—Thomas C. and one who died young. Their daughter Isabella married Gen. Thomas Sherwin of Boston. Another daughter, Mary, married William H. Elliot of Keene.

JOHN ELLIOT.

John Elliot, a descendant of Lieut. Andrew Elliot (who came from Somersetshire, Eng., to Beverly, Mass., in 1669) was a son of David, a Revolutionary soldier; was born in 1783; lived in his boyhood with his maternal uncle, Major Benj. Adams, in New Ipswich; began business as a merchant in Chesterfield in 1804, with Capt. Benj. Cooke; came to Keene in 1809 and began business with Shubael Butterfield, on the east side of Main street, below Pierce's tavern; married, in 1809, Deborah, daughter of Nathan Bixby, then of Dublin; in 1814 joined Aaron Appleton, Timothy Twitchell and others in the manufacture of glass; joined Aaron Appleton in general mercantile business in 1814 and that firm (Appleton & Elliot) built the store on "Elliot's corner," two stories high, in 1815; in 1826, with his sons, formed the firm of John Elliot & Co. and continued in business on the corner for many years; one of the early stockholders of Cheshire bank, and for many

JOHN ELLIOT.

years its president. He was a liberal subscriber to the building of the Cheshire railroad, and to the first Unitarian meetinghouse, for which he gave a town clock; and did much for the prosperity of the town. He owned a large tract of land west of the Ashuelot river, was a pioneer in the sheep raising industry—then exceedingly profitable—and his barns used for that purpose are still standing near the old tannery at West Keene. He first lived on the Walpole road (School street), then on the south corner of Cross and Prison streets. In 1814, in connection with Nathan Bixby he bought of Elijah Dunbar the house Dunbar had built, on Main street, now the residence of his grandson, William H. Elliot, and lived there until his death in 1865, at the age of eighty-two. Previous to this purchase he had owned and lived in the house on Washington street afterwards the homestead of Phineas Handerson.

Mr. and Mrs. Elliot celebrated their golden wedding, Dec. 5, 1859. Their children were: Deborah Maria, born 1811 and died, unmarried, in 1862; John Henry, born in 1813; James Bixby, born in 1815. Mrs. Elliot died in 1880, aged ninety-four.

JOHN HENRY ELLIOT.

John Henry Elliot, son of John and Deborah (Bixby) Elliot, was born in Keene in 1813; graduated at Harvard in 1835; spent some years in Europe; married in 1848, Emily Ann, daughter of Lynds Wheelock; treasurer and trustee of Ashuelot railroad; secretary and director of Cheshire railroad; member of the executive council of New Hampshire in 1865-8; chosen president of the Cheshire bank in 1861 and held that office through life. In 1892 he gave to the city of Keene the land and buildings for the present city hospital. He was a man of fine literary taste and of wide reading, and was remarkable for his originality; and many of his witty mots were repeated about town. He died in 1895, leaving three children: William Henry, married Mary, daughter of Thomas M. Edwards; John Wheelock, a physician in Boston; Emily Jane, married Tucker Daland, of Boston.

HENRY ELLIS.

Deacon Henry Ellis was born in 1746; married, in 1771, Melatiah Thayer, of Mendon, Mass.; came from Lancaster, Mass., to Keene soon after marriage, and was the first settler on the farm in the west part, afterwards the "Baker farm," now Prof. Bracq's. Mrs. Ellis sold her wedding shoes to buy young apple trees. Bears roamed the forests then, and Mr. Ellis caught one in his trap and killed it with an axe. Six children were born to them between 1772 and 1783, Keziah, Pamela, one who died young, Archelaus, Samuel and Milly. Mr. Ellis sold that farm to Capt. Joshua Durant, bought one at the north end of the village, and lived seven years near the site of the "old Sun tavern" on Court street. He then bought a large tract of land on the Surry road, west of the river, three miles from the village, cleared it, and "built the large house thereon," still standing, though much altered. It was one of the best farms in the county, and his son, Samuel, married and settled on the place with him, and he was succeeded by his son, Samuel P. Ellis. Mr. Ellis was an industrious, even-tempered man, and so devoutly pious as to be called "deacon," but it does not appear that he ever held that office in any church. In July, 1776, he joined Capt. William Humphrey's company, Col. Wingate's regiment, sent to reinforce the northern army on its retreat from Canada, and served till the regiment was discharged — a short term.

Mrs. Ellis was an energetic woman, a good housekeeper and excellent helpmate. She used the large, unfinished chambers of the house for her wheels and looms, and spun and wove both wool and flax. She wove the cloth for Susanna Baker's wedding gown (1790), white linen, crossed both ways with lines of blue. (The groom was Daniel Watson, and they were the grandparents of Dr. George B. Twitchell). One day her husband broke his plough point, and was much discouraged, for he could not replace it in Cheshire county. Mrs. Ellis mounted a horse and rode through the woods to Mendon, fifty miles, and returned with a new point. When the first train of cars came to Keene she was shown through it by Dr. Amos

Twitchell. "What do you think of it?" asked the doctor. "It beats everything I've ever attended, balls, quiltin's, weddin's and ordinations," was her droll reply. She lived to be ninety-eight years old—known through the town as Grandma'am Ellis—and died in 1850. Dea. Ellis died in 1838, aged ninety-two. Both were buried in the north burying ground.

TIMOTHY ELLIS.

Col. Timothy Ellis, was born in Dedham, Mass., Sept. 14, 1724, and came to Keene in 1765, or earlier; lived on the hills four miles from the village, on what was then called the new, now the old, Westmoreland road; died in 1817, aged ninety-three.

In 1755 he was a sergeant from Dedham in the company of Capt. Eliphalet Fales, in the expedition to Crown Point, and served from May to November. He was a lieutenant in Capt. Simon Slocum's company, Col. Frye's regiment, at Fort Cumberland in Nova Scotia, from March, 1759, to April, 1760—a part of the time second lieutenant in Lieut. Benj. Holden's company. (Massachusetts Archives.)

His name first appears on the records of Keene, in 1765, as "Lieut. Timothy Ellis." He was a major in the Sixth regiment of New Hampshire militia in 1777, marched with the volunteers from that regiment to Ticonderoga in May of that year, and again in July; was appointed major of Nichols' regiment, under Stark, and commanded his battalion in the battle of Bennington; continued to hold his commission as major of the Sixth militia; was muster-master of the Continental troops from Cheshire county; rose to colonel of the Sixth regiment, and resigned Feb. 24, 1783.

He was selectman in 1770, '74, '77, '79 and '83; delegate from Keene to the Provincial congress at Exeter, in April, 1775; representative to the legislature in 1776-7-8, serving on several important committees; was one of a committee of three in 1778 to take possession of the confiscated estates of tories in Cheshire county; and held many other important positions. He left a large number of descendants, some of whom still reside in town.

His wife was named Elizabeth. She died in 1810.

EDWARD FARRAR.

Edward Farrar, son of Daniel W. and Betsey (Griffin) Farrar, was born in Troy, N. H., in 1822; studied at Hancock academy and entered Dartmouth college, but left on account of ill health; read law with Levi Chamberlain of Keene, and graduated at Harvard Law school; was admitted to the bar in 1848; appointed clerk of the courts in Cheshire county in 1857, and justice of the city police court in Keene in 1874, holding both positions at the time of his death in 1888; represented Keene in the legislature in 1871 and '72; and was the second mayor of the city of Keene, holding that office two terms. In 1858, he married Caroline, daughter of C. H. Brainard, of Keene, and had two daughters.

In 1848, having a taste for music, Mr. Farrar had a piano in his office, north of the Square, and he discovered that sounds from that instrument were conveyed over long distances by wires. He then stretched wires from his piano to the town hall, used the same kind of electrical transmitters that are now used in telephoning, and caused the musical tones of the instrument to be heard in all parts of the hall. Musicians and others went to the hall and heard the sounds; but the wiseacres sneered and ridiculed, the telegraph company refused to allow him to attach his contrivance to their wires for experiment, and Mr. Farrar, being a quiet, unassuming man, without means to push the enterprise, gave it up. He was well informed concerning electricity and corresponded with Harvard professors in relation to it, but gained no new ideas. This was twenty-five years before Reis of Berlin made the same discovery.

FRANCIS FAULKNER.

Francis Faulkner (in the records of Southampton county, England, the name is spelled Fawkner, Fawconer, Falconer, Fawknor, Faulkner), son of Francis, a clothier at Watertown and Billerica, Mass., was born in 1788, at Watertown. His grandfather was Major Francis Faulkner, who, with the Middlesex regiment of militia, at Lexington and Concord, April 19, 1775, harassed the British

FRANCIS A. FAULKNER.

on their retreat; was a lieutenant colonel at the battle of White Plains in 1776; and also at the surrender of Burgoyne in 1777, and conducted the prisoners to Cambridge, Mass. Since 1735 the Faulkners have been millers, clothiers and manufacturers at Acton, Mass.; and in every case —at Acton, Billerica and Keene—the Faulkner descendants are owners of, or have large interests in the mills of their ancestors.

Young Francis learned the clothier's trade at his grandfather's mills in Acton; came to Keene at the age of twenty-one, and worked in the clothiers' mills on the Ashuelot river. In 1815, with Josiah Colony, he formed the firm of Faulkner & Colony, bought of John Maguire (who had purchased of Hale & Kise) all the mills and water privileges on the Ashuelot in Keene—except those owned by Azel Wilder, west of the sawmill—and began that very successful business which their descendants still continue on greatly extended lines.

He married Eliza Stearns, of Lancaster, Mass. They had six children: Charles Stearns, Elizabeth Jones, Francis Augustus, William Frederic, and two who died in infancy. Mr. Faulkner was essentially a man of business, with clear perceptions and sound principles, and never sought political office or public notoriety. He died in 1842, aged fifty-four.

CHARLES S. FAULKNER.

Charles S. Faulkner, son of the above, was born in Keene in 1819; married Sallie Eliza Eames, of Bath, N. H. Upon the death of his father, when he was only twenty-three years old, Mr. Faulkner upheld the family name in the firm, and accumulated a large property. He died in 1879, leaving a widow, five sons and one daughter.

FRANCIS A. FAULKNER.

Francis A. Faulkner, son of Francis and Eliza (Stearns) Faulkner, was born in Keene in 1825; prepared for college at Phillips Exeter academy; graduated at Harvard in 1846; read law with Phineas Handerson and William P. Wheeler at Keene, and studied at Harvard Law school; married, 1849, Caroline, daughter of Phineas Handerson;

joined William P Wheeler in 1849 as junior member of the law firm of Wheeler & Faulkner, which continued for twenty-six years. He was county solicitor, 1855-1860; moderator of fourteen annual town meetings; representative to the legislature four terms; was appointed a justice of the supreme court of New Hampshire in 1874, but declined to serve; was member of the state constitutional convention of 1876; was a director in both the Ashuelot and Cheshire National banks, and president of the Cheshire Provident Institution for Savings at the time of his decease. During the last two years of the Civil war he was United States commissioner of enrollment for the Third New Hampshire congressional district. "He was deeply interested in political affairs, and no man in his section wielded more influence." When the town of Keene became a city he was a member of the first board of aldermen; and he held many other positions of honor and responsibility. He died in 1879, leaving a widow and three sons.

CATHERINE FISKE.

Miss Catherine Fiske was born in Worcester, Mass.; began teaching in Dover, Windham county, Vt., at the age of fifteen; opened her boarding school in Keene (Seminary for Young Ladies) in 1814 under the patronage of Mrs. Daniel Newcomb, on the east side of Main street near Elijah Dunbar's house. After the first year a Miss Reed (or Read) was associated with her for two years, then Miss Elizabeth Sprague was with her for two years, and then, in 1819, she assumed the enterprise herself and employed assistants. She was an ideal teacher and manager, and her school had a national reputation and was one of the best in the country. The number of pupils sometimes reached one hundred at a term, and many were turned away for want of accommodations. In the thirty-one years of its existence more than 2,500 girls received the rare training and culture of that celebrated school. In addition to the common and higher academic branches of learning, she employed specialists to teach music, drawing, painting, botany, languages and needlework; and she paid particular attention to the manners and morals of the

young ladies, and to their study and proper use of the English language. She also kept special milliners and "mantua-makers" for their accommodation. The first pianos brought to town were for use in her school (see Miss Elizabeth Sprague's sketch); and the first pipe organ used in town was made by William Willson of Keene and placed in this school.[1]

In 1824 she bought the house that had been built by John G. Bond, on Main street, which then had with it a farm of twenty acres. To that she added twenty acres of intervale, and a pasture on Beech hill, next north of the Luther Nurse farm, where she kept ten cows in summer and had the milk and butter—which was under the care of Mrs. Isaac Nurse—brought to the school each day, and a supply of butter made for the winter. She kept a pair of horses and a carriage for the use of the school, and her handsome carryall, with the long procession of girls in charge of their teachers—dividing to reach the churches of their respective denominations, the Congregational and Unitarian—was a marked feature of a Sunday morning in Keene.

In addition to the teaching and management of the school, she superintended the farm,[2] the stables of cows and horses, and the housekeeping—even her bread making was done on the scientific principles of chemistry—and did it all with the same serenity and coolness. She died May 20, 1837. "Her funeral was attended by a large concourse, stores were closed, bells tolled, and a long procession followed to her grave."

She left her property, after providing for her mother, to the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, now called the state hospital, one of the first and largest contributions.

The school was continued for ten years after her decease by her teachers, under the management of Miss Withington, but the Keene academy drew from it, the teachers married,[3] and it was finally given up.

[1] The same organ is now in the Jehiel Wilson house at South Keene.

[2] In one year she raised 700 bushels of potatoes. (John L. Davis, her farmer.)

[3] Miss Withington married Dea. Stewart Hastings, and Miss Abby Barnes, an assistant, married Thomas H. Leverett, both of Keene.

PHINEAS FISKE.

Phineas Fiske came from Middlesex county, Mass., to Chesterfield early in the nineteenth century; married, in 1812, Mary, daughter of Col. Hart, and grandniece of Gen. Joseph Warren, who was killed at Bunker Hill; came to Keene in 1814 and took the brick store on the west side of Main street, now the north end of City Hotel; went to Boston for a few years, in the firm of Francis Skinner & Co.; returned to Keene with a fortune and built a house on the corner of Winchester and Main streets, which was afterwards removed to the corner of Madison street to give place to the present house on that site, built by Gov. Dinsmoor, the younger. His children were: Mary H., who married Thomas M. Edwards in 1840; Julia Anne, who married William Dinsmoor in 1835; Samuel W. and Phineas S.

In 1824, Mr. Fiske married, second, Miss Isabella B. Reddington of Walpole, N. H. Francis S., now of Boston, was the only child by this marriage.

Mr. Fiske was one of those enterprising men of high character and energy, of whom Keene could boast so many in the early days.

ABIJAH FOSTER.

Abijah Foster was born in 1763; came from Salem, Mass.; married, in 1797, Artimisia, daughter of Dr. Obadiah Blake of Keene; had a son, Abijah, who was born in 1798, and a daughter, Nabby, born in 1799. From about 1785 to 1809, or later, he kept a store at old West Keene, on the west side of the road north of the Ingersoll house; carried on a large business and became one of the wealthiest men in town. He built the Deacon Hastings house (burned a few years ago) which stood north of the present house of Sidney C. Ellis. He died in 1822, aged fifty-nine.

AMOS FOSTER.

Amos Foster, son of Timothy of Boxford, Mass., was born in Boxford in 1713; married Mary Dorman of Boxford (cousin of Capt. Ephraim); was one of the early proprietors and settlers of Upper Ashuelot, in 1736; left a

legacy of half his property to the town; died of small pox, March 2, 1761, aged forty-nine. His wife had died on the 5th of February of the same year, of the same disease. He left no children.

DAVID FOSTER.

Deacon David Foster, son of Timothy of Boxford, Mass., was born in Boxford in 1704; was one of the early proprietors and settlers of Upper Ashuelot, in 1736; scribe for the proprietors in 1738 and their clerk for more than twenty years; one of the original members and first deacon of the church in 1738, and remained in those positions for the rest of his life, more than forty years; a soldier in the French and Indian war of 1748-9; married Mrs. Hannah Sessions, of Andover, Mass.; was a surveyor of land in Keene, 1757-63; town clerk and treasurer, 1760; selectman four years; on the alarm list in Keene in 1773; on town committee of safety in 1776; died 1779, aged seventy-five. His children were: Hannah, born 1751; Rebecca, born 1753; David, born 1755.

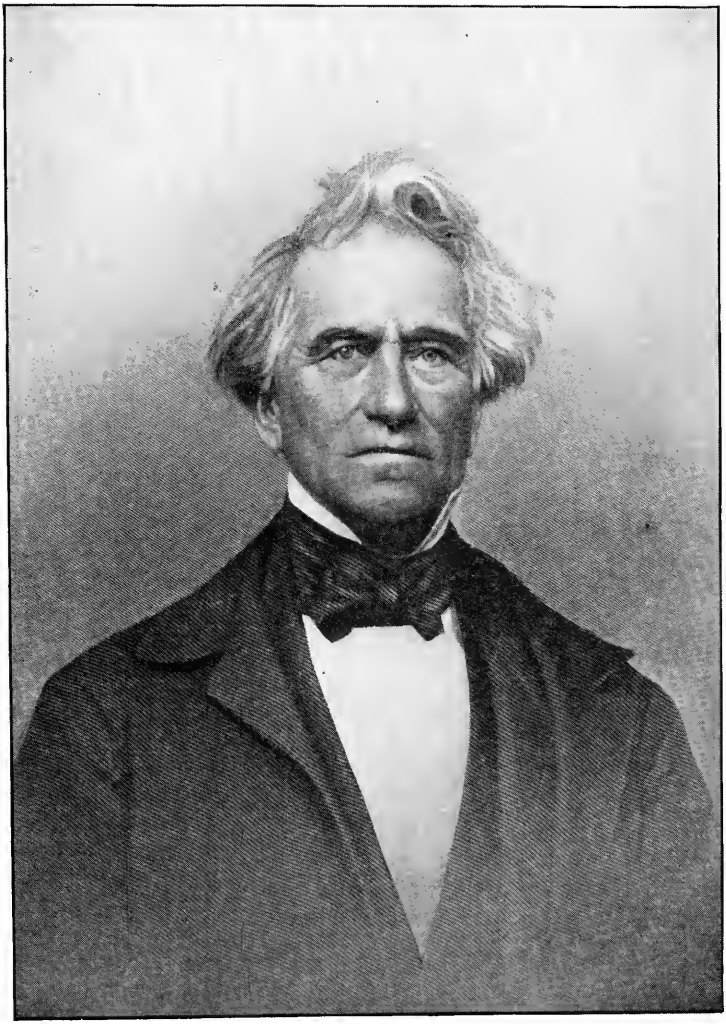
THOMAS FRINK.

Dr. Thomas Frink, physician, surgeon, magistrate and innkeeper, married Abigail —— and had seven children. His name first appears on the records in 1760, when he bought the "Original House-lotts lying on ye West side of the Town street * * * * No's 49 and 50, with the Housing Fences and Orcharding standing on said Lotts." (Old records in state library.) He kept a noted public house there in 1761-5, and later one on Pleasant street. He was the magistrate who organized some of the surrounding towns under their New Hampshire charters. In 1777, he was physician to Gen. James Reed, then of Fitzwilliam, and, June 29 to July 11, was surgeon of Col. Ashley's regiment in the campaign for the relief of Ticonderoga. He died in 1786. His brother, Dr. Calvin Frink, of Swanzey, married Sarah, daughter of Col. Isaac Wyman.

His eldest son, Dr. Willard Frink, born in 1762, married Thankful, daughter of Jonathan Pond, of Keene, in her seventeenth year. His daughter Polly is still remembered

by the more elderly people of Keene as one of those queer, bright, interesting "characters" with which every New England town was formerly blessed, but which modern society, with its compulsory education and machine-like schools, seldom produces.

Dr. Frink was somewhat noted for his convivial habits. An amusing story was told of him to Dr. Whitney Barstow in 1856, by Rev. Laban Ainsworth of Jaffrey, with all the vivacity and gusto of youth, although he was then 104 years old. When Ainsworth was about seventeen years old—just after the opening of the college at Hanover—his father furnished him with a horse, saddle and bridle and sent him to Dartmouth. His first stop on the way was at Keene. At the tavern he met Dr. Frink, who was trading horses and drinking flip. After some haggling a trade was concluded, and the doctor sat down to write a note and bill of sale. But that last mug was one too many, and his right hand had forgotten its cunning. After several failures in his attempt to put the note in shape, he looked about the tap-room and saw the intelligent face of the bright and sober young freshman. "Here, young man," said he, "wont you just sit down and write this 'ere note for me? I guess I'm a leetle drunk." "Oh yes," said Ainsworth, "I'll write it," and sat down and quickly wrote the note. The doctor was pleased, but was wise enough to say but little. Ainsworth proceeded on his journey and entered the college. That same autumn an epidemic of fever, common in those days, broke out among the students and young Ainsworth was one of those attacked. President Wheelock was alarmed and sent for all the best physicians within reach, among them Dr. Frink of Keene—which shows that he stood high in his profession, notwithstanding his habits. The doctor appeared on the scene, thoroughly sober and responsible, and visited every sick student, young Ainsworth with the rest. When the doctor had attended carefully to his case, Ainsworth asked for his bill. "No! young man," said Frink, "I'll not take a cent. I know you. You're the nice boy who once wrote a note for me in Keene, when I was so blamed drunk!"



JOHN H. FULLER.

JOHN H. FULLER.

John H. Fuller came from Lunenburg, Mass., to Walpole, N. H., with his father's family, towards the close of the eighteenth century; spent his boyhood in Walpole; studied medicine, but gave it up and went into business, first in a store in Chesterfield, then in Winchester, N. H.; married Pamela, daughter of Rev. Ezra Conant of the latter place; was adjutant of the Second regiment of New Hampshire militia commanded by Lt. Col. John Steele of Peterboro, detached and organized for the defence of Portsmouth when the British threatened an attack on that place in 1814; came to Keene in 1823 and took the store previously occupied by Mr. Lynds Wheelock, next south of the Phœnix Hotel; became a noted wool buyer and accumulated a large property. About the time the Cheshire railroad was built, he bought a tract of swamp lying above Cross and between Court and Washington streets; drained it at great expense into Beaver brook; sold building lots to railroad employees and other laboring men, loaning them money and encouraging them to build homes, which many did; and the neat, well-kept homesteads on that tract, established by those means, attest the thrift and high character of Keene's laboring population.

Few men have done as much for Keene as did Mr. Fuller, in this and other ways. It was almost wholly through his exertions that the Ashuelot railroad was built, and he was its first president. To prove his sincerity in the project he invested $50,000 in the stock, which proved nearly a total loss. He was active in the organization of the Keene Five Cents Savings bank, and became its first president; and he was the originator and first president of the Winchester National bank. He was remarkable for activity, genialty, integrity and fairness in all his dealings. He lived at one time in the stone house on Washington street, at another time in the brick house on the same street, now Mrs. Wm. P. Wheeler's, and at still another in one-half of the old wooden courthouse, then on Washington street, cutting the building in twain, and using the other half for a wool house, on Railroad square, where it still stands, occupied by J. Cushing & Co. as a

grain house. He died in 1869, aged seventy-seven. His children were: Quincy; Lucy, married Lucius D. Pierce; a daughter who died young; Sophia, married Fred K. Bartlett; James and Reuben.

SAMUEL A. GEROULD.

Samuel A. Gerould—early family name Jerauld, wealthy silk manufacturers in the south of France, Huguenots, one of whom came to this country about 1700 and settled in Medfield, Mass.—was born in Wrentham in 1794; brought up on a farm; an industrious student and reader; bought his time of his father at seventeen; taught school; attained the rank of lieutenant in the militia; came to Keene in 1819 and engaged in trade where E. F Lane's upper block now stands; married, 1820, Deborah, daughter of Hon. Samuel H. Dean, of Dedham; built his brick store, west side of Square, in 1825; extended it to the south in 1835 for George Tilden's store; and took in his son, Samuel A., Jr., as partner in 1844 (S. A. Gerould & Son). In 1857, the firm bought and the next season rebuilt the south half of the old brick courthouse, adjoining his block on the north. His brick house on West street was built in 1861, under the direction of the son. Mr. Gerould was chairman of the committee in 1867 to establish town water works, which were finally laid in accordance with the plan suggested by him, and he was active in all projects for the benefit of the community. He was in business nearly fifty years. Besides his son, Samuel A., he had one daughter, Deborah. He died in 1887, in his ninety-fourth year.

SALMA HALE.

Hon. Salma Hale, son of David and Hannah (Emerson) Hale, was born in Alstead, in 1787; entered the office of the Farmers' Museum at Walpole as an apprentice at the age of thirteen; at seventeen wrote a text-book on English grammar, published at Worcester in 1804, rewritten and republished in New York, 1831; at eighteen was editor of the Political Observer, published at Walpole; read law at Walpole and Keene; removed to Keene in 1813; was partner for a time with Elijah Parker, Esq.; was clerk of the courts in Cheshire county for about thirty years; served one

term in congress, 1817–19, but declined a reëlection; represented Keene in the legislature in 1823, '28 and '44; member of the state senate in 1824–5 and 1845–6; president of the Cheshire bank, 1829–1842.

He was a trustee of Dartmouth college, and of the University of Vermont, from both of which institutions he received honorary degrees; and he was secretary of the commission for determining the northeastern boundary line of the United States under the treaty of Ghent. He was an early member and afterwards president of the New Hampshire Historical Society; one of the originators of the New Hampshire Agricultural Society; and was active in the Unitarian secession, in temperance, education, the abolition of slavery, and various other social, literary and philanthropic subjects.

He was a man of scholarly tastes and wide reading, and was a master of correct and elegant English. His History of the United States, of many editions and large sales, "became widely read and largely used throughout the country as a school book, 25,000 copies per annum being published in some years. It was a work of great literary merit and accuracy and careful statement. Few single volumes have done so much to educate the youth of this country and to implant a love of knowledge and its early history and of the principles of free government." Gov. Charles H. Bell, in an address to the New Hampshire Historical Society mentioned "Salma Hale, an accomplished writer and scholar and a pioneer in one department of school literature," and adds, "his History of the United States was truly an educational classic and long retained its estimation with the successive generations of the young, and more singular still, was repeatedly published abroad."

He published his Annals of Keene in 1826, with an enlarged edition in 1851, which brought the narrative down from 1790 to 1815; and he was the author of several other works and a large number of orations, addresses, and contributions to various publications.

He married, 1820, Sarah Kellogg, daughter of Seth and Susan King, of Boston, formerly of Suffield, Conn. Mrs.

Hale was one of the regents for New Hampshire of the national association of women for the preservation of Mt. Vernon, Va., in 1859. Both she and her husband were highly gifted in social affairs, and they entertained with a genial and delightful hospitality. She died April 19, 1865. Mr. Hale died Nov. 19, 1866. They had one son who died in infancy; one daughter, Sarah King, who married, first, Stephen R. Bellows, and second, Hon. Harry Hibbard, of Bath, N. H., speaker of the New Hampshire house of representatives, president of the New Hampshire senate, an eminent lawyer, and for six years member of congress from New Hampshire; and a second son, George Silsbee.

GEORGE S. HALE.

Hon. George S. Hale, son of Salma and Sarah (King) Hale was born in Keene in 1825; studied at Keene, Walpole and Concord, and at Phillips Exeter academy; graduated at Harvard in 1844; studied at Harvard Law school; taught in a large school for girls in Richmond, Va.; travelled abroad; began practice of the law in Boston in 1850; was member and president of the common council in that city; president of the board of trustees of Phillips Exeter academy; trustee of the Massachusetts General hospital and of the Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind; member of many literary and scientific societies; editor and reporter of several volumes of the Boston Law Reporter, and of the United States Digest; author of Memoirs of Hon. Joel Parker, and others, and of many legal and other publications. His practice brought him into positions of trust and responsibility in the care of large estates and public funds.

He married, 1868, Mrs. Ellen Sever Tebbets, widow of Rev. Theodore Tebbets, and they had two sons, Robert Sever and Richard Walden Hale. Mr. Hale died July 27, 1897. Mrs. Hale died May 9, 1904.

SAMUEL W. HALE.

Hon. Samuel W. Hale, son of Samuel and Saloma (Whitney) Hale, was born in Fitchburg, Mass., in 1823; worked on his father's farm and attended the district

school and academy in Fitchburg; engaged in business with his brother at Dublin, N. H., in 1835; married, 1850, Emelia M. Hayes, of Dublin; came to Keene in 1859; with Stephen D. Osborne (Osborne & Hale) manufactured chairs on Mechanic street, removed the business to South Keene, enlarged it, and established the South Keene Chair Company. Mr. Hale bought the shops on Ralston street, improved them, and in 1879 established the Ashuelot Furniture Company, but the buildings were destroyed by fire in February, 1884. He became a director in the Citizens bank of Keene and in the Wachusett bank of Fitchburg; was one of those who accomplished the difficult task of building the Manchester & Keene railroad from East Wilton to Keene; was afterward president of the Boston, Winthrop & Shore railroad; and was engaged in many other enterprises, particularly in the promotion of gold and silver mining properties. He was active in organizing the Second Congregational church and in building its edifice. He was representative to the legislature in 1866–7; member of the governor's council in 1869–70; delegate to the Republican national convention in 1880; and governor of New Hampshire in 1883–4. In 1869 he bought the mansion on the corner of Main and Winchester streets, added a greenhouse and cold grapery, and spent the remainder of his days there. He died in 1891, leaving a widow, one daughter, Mrs. William DeLos Love, Jr., and one son, William S.

AARON HALL.

Rev. Aaron Hall was born in Cheshire, Ct., in 1751; graduated at Yale in 1772; received the degree of A. M. in 1775, from both Yale and Dartmouth; preached in Keene as a candidate in the summer of 1777, was called in December, and ordained Feb. 18, 1778; married, 1782, Sarah, daughter of Thomas Baker, Esq., of Keene. Their children were: Sally, born 1783, married Elijah Parker; Aaron, born 1785, married Julia Ann Hitchcock; David, born 1786; and Nabby, born 1788, who died 1790. He married, second, in 1790, Hannah Hitchcock, of Cheshire, Ct., and had two daughters, Hannah, born 1791, and Nabby Ann, born 1793.

In 1788, he was the delegate from Keene to the constitutional convention of New Hampshire that accepted the proposed Federal constitution and assured the establishment of the United States government at that time; and his oration, delivered in Keene on the 30th of June, when the town celebrated the ratification of that Federal constitution, was published in the New Hampshire Recorder and also in pamphlet form.

During his long, peaceful and happy ministry, the original structure of the present First Congregational meeting-house was built, in 1786, 211 members were added to the church and 871 persons were baptized.

He died Aug. 12, 1814, in the sixty-third year of his age and the thirty-seventh of his ministry, respected and beloved by all.

JEREMIAH HALL.

Capt. Jeremiah Hall, son of Benjamin and Sarah (Fisher) Hall, of Wrentham, Mass., was born in 1703; married Dorothy; was one of the original proprietors of Upper Ashuelot, and drew lot No. 2, on the east side, south end of Main street, where he built his house, and lived while here. He was one of the leaders in settling the township, and one of the first party, of eight persons, that came here in 1734 and began the settlement. He was also one of the party that came here in 1735, and was chosen moderator of the proprietors' meeting in the absence of Capt. Sady; and again in May, 1736, he was the leader of the party that came and spent the summer in building cabins and preparing for the next year's settlement. Again in the spring of 1737 he led the party that came for permanent settlement, was the "standing moderator" of the proprietors' meetings, and was paid for having represented the proprietors at the general court. His name is first on the list of members at the original organization of the church in 1738; and he had a son, Jeremiah, Jr.

He was designated in the records of 1738 as "Capt.;" and he was also a physician—the first in town—and is called "Dr. Hall of Keene" in the account of the scouting party, as given in the Annals, that caused the capture of Pierre Raimbault, near Northfield, in 1747 In 1744, he

buried a daughter here, Kezia, sixteen years old, and a son, Benjamin, three years old; and when the place was abandoned by the families in the spring of 1747, he and several others of the settlers joined the military company of Capt. Josiah Willard, which was stationed here that year and the next; was clerk of that company, and Jeremiah, Jr., was a member of the same company He was one of the first of the settlers to return to the township; and was chosen agent in 1750 to procure a charter for the town from the legislature of New Hampshire. He buried his wife, Dorothy, here in January, 1753, and soon afterwards removed to Pembroke, Mass. We find him a practising physician in that town in 1756; and he was appointed surgeon's mate, afterwards surgeon (chirurgeon), of Col. Joseph Thatcher's regiment in the expedition to Crown Point in 1757 In 1758, from March to November, he was surgeon of Col. Thomas Doty's regiment for the reduction of Canada; and in 1759, March 31 to December 31, surgeon of Col. John Thomas's regiment at Halifax.

BENJAMIN HALL.

Lieut. Benjamin Hall. His name first appears in the records of 1761, when he bought of William Smeed and his wife Phebe (who had removed to Walpole), six original house-lots—numbers 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27—and seventeen other lots of the several divisions of land in the township. He also owned, afterwards, house-lots numbered 16, 17 and 18, and much other land in town, amounting to several thousand acres. In 1768 he sold to Jesse Clark a farm of 100 acres "lying in the crotch of Ash Swamp Brook," where Mr. Clark and his son, Jesse, Jr., kept tavern for many years, and built the house west of the small pond, since known as the Ingersoll house. In 1783 he bought of Dr. Gideon Tiffany, then of Hanover, N. H., a farm of sixty acres, with saw and grist mills, on the North branch—the mills since known as the peg factory.

His wife's name was Melatiah, and his children were: Nathaniel, Ziba, Hannaniah, James, Benjamin, Josiah, Bela; and a daughter Betty, who married Maj. Luther Eames, who kept a public house with Aaron Eames.

Lieut. Hall was selectman nine years between 1762 and 1774, and again in 1784–5–6. He represented the town in the legislature in 1771–2–3–4, and again in 1784–5 and 1787. He was the lieutenant of the militia company here in 1773, but in 1776 he refused to sign the Association Test, and was dropped from all official positions. He was not, however, active against the patriots, was considered a man of sound judgment and discretion, and after the war was again entrusted with responsible offices, as appears above. He died in 1805.

PHINEAS HANDERSON.

Hon. Phineas Handerson, son of Gideon and Abigail (Church) Handerson, was born in Amherst, Mass., in 1778; read law with Geo. B. Upham of Claremont; was admitted to the bar in 1804; practised in Chesterfield; married, 1818, Hannah W., daughter of Rev. Samuel Mead of Walpole; represented Chesterfield in the legislature; removed to Keene, 1833; bought and lived in the house on Washington street known as the "Handerson" house—since much changed and pillars added; state senator, 1816–17, 1825, 1831–2; councilor, 1833, 1840–1–2; for many years attorney and town agent for Keene, and held many positions of trust and responsibility. He took high rank as a legal adviser and advocate, and was president of the Cheshire county bar at the time of his death in March, 1853.

His children were: Esther, born in Chesterfield in 1819, unmarried; Harriet Mead, born in Chesterfield in 1820, married William P. Abbott, of Nashua, afterwards of Keene; Ellen, born in Chesterfield in 1823, married Dr. Wm. H. Thayer, of Boston;[1] Caroline, born in Chesterfield in 1825, married Francis A. Faulkner, of Keene; Henry Clay, born in Chesterfield in 1828, captain in Union army, postmaster in Keene, 1870–74; Hannah Maria, born in Chesterfield in 1830, married Dr. Thomas E. Hatch; Anne Bacon, born in Chesterfield in 1833, unmarried; Mary, born in Keene, 1835, married Hon. Jacob H. Ela, of Rochester, N. H.

[1] Abbott H. Thayer, the distinguised painter, is their son. He was born in Boston and brought up in Keene.

PHINEHAS HANDERSON.

STEPHEN HARRINGTON.

Col. Stephen Harrington was born in Lexington, Mass., in 1775; married Mary Prescott; lived many years in Packersfield, N. H.; was a tanner, and colonel of militia; came to Keene about 1822; bought Shirtliff's tavern, enlarged and improved it, added a third story, and named it Harrington's Coffee House; afterwards connected it with the brick store on the south, named it the Eagle Hotel, and kept an excellent public house; with his son-in-law, King, had a tannery and currier's shop in rear, and a shoe shop on the street. He died, 1847, aged seventy-two. His son, Asaph, succeeded him in the hotel and kept a very popular house. His daughter, Alvira, married Benjamin Wyman of Lancaster, Mass.; his daughter, Mary, married William King, mentioned above; his daughter, Rebecca, married Benaiah Cooke, of Keene, teacher and editor. Col. Harrington was a gentleman of polished manners, dignified and courtly, large-hearted and public spirited.

NEHEMIAH HART.

Colonel Nehemiah Hart, of English descent, was born at Natick, Mass., Feb. 3, 1810. His parents soon afterwards settled in Lunenburg, where he lived until eleven years of age. His family then removed to West Keene. He resided with his parents, receiving a common school education and assisting his father on the farm until after his marriage. About this time he contracted for and built the road around Spofford lake, Chesterfield, now a popular summer resort.

Mr. Hart was captain of the Ninth company, Twentieth regiment, New Hampshire state militia, in 1834, '35 and '36. He was commissioned lieutenant colonel, Sept. 4, 1837. He married Miranda Rosetta, daughter of Caleb and Sarah C. (Pierce) Miller of Charlestown, N. H., Aug. 25, 1841. After his marriage he purchased a farm in West Keene, where he extensively engaged in farming and dairying, and in the winter was largely engaged in the wood and lumber business. About the year 1845 he purchased a large tract of land on the south side of West street, which he improved, and erected thereon a number of

dwelling houses. He laid out the court known as Hart place, to which he removed from his farm in 1868, where he afterwards resided until his death, Nov. 16, 1890, aged eighty years and nine months. Mrs. Hart died Jan. 16, 1893, aged seventy-five years. They were the parents of eight children, five of whom are living.

As a business man, Mr. Hart was prompt, reliable and energetic. His success was well-earned and deserving.

THOMAS E. HATCH.

Dr. Thomas E. Hatch, son of John and Sally (Edwards) Hatch, was born in 1822; graduated at the University of Pennsylvania, in 1844, receiving the degree of M. D.; the same year was appointed assistant physician of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane at Concord; afterwards appointed to the same position in the state lunatic asylum at Worcester, Mass.; resigned on account of ill health; went to California in 1849; returned in 1850; made several voyages to Europe as surgeon of a sailing packet; married, 1854, Hannah Maria, daughter of Hon. Phineas Handerson, of Keene, and they had one daughter and one son.

From 1851 to 1859, Dr. Hatch was surgeon and purser on a steamship of the Nicaragua Transit Co., sailing between New York and San Juan; again resigned on account of ill health; was appointed postmaster at Keene in 1861 and held the office until 1870. He represented his ward two terms in the New Hampshire legislature, and was a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1876. His father was for many years the popular landlord of the Phœnix Hotel in Keene, and his mother was the second daughter of Dr. Thomas Edwards, of Keene. He was a very prominent Freemason, reaching the thirty-third degree in 1863. In 1880, he was appointed to a clerkship at Washington, and died in that city in 1894.

JOHN HAWKS.

Lt. Col. John Hawks, of Deerfield, Mass., was one of the original proprietors of Upper Ashuelot; son of Dea. Eleazar and Judith (Smead) Hawks. He was born in

1707; married, 1730, Elizabeth, daughter of John Nims, an aunt of David Nims, who came to Upper Ashuelot; one of a committee in 1734 to lay out, survey and allot the intervale lands in this township; one of another committee, the same year, to "find the best place for a road from Upper to Lower Ashuelot;" a sergeant in command of Fort Massachusetts in 1746; captured after a gallant defence and taken to Canada; returned after a few months to find himself "the hero of Fort Massachusetts;" was the active agent in rescuing Nathan Blake from captivity in 1748; was appointed a lieutenant the same year and commanded a company of scouts; was a major in Col. William Williams's regiment in Abercrombie's disastrous campaign against Ticonderoga in 1758; lieutenant colonel under Gen. Amherst in 1759 and commanded a detachment of several hundred men that cut a road from Crown Point over the Green mountains toward No. 4. "Bold, hardy and enterprising, he was highly esteemed and trusted with important commands."

PETER HAYWARD.

Peter Hayward came to New Hampshire with the pioneers of Upper Ashuelot and made the first settlement in what is now Surry—then a part of Gilsum, called "Westmoreland Leg." He also owned land in Keene, which made him a citizen of this town; and he was a town officer here in 1755-6, and again in '69 and '74.

In going to Surry by the "old road," on the east side of the river, one may notice the last house before reaching the bridge—the first in Surry—standing on a bluff, with its large, old-fashioned chimney and general colonial appearance. That house was built by this Peter Hayward, his log cabin having stood near the same spot, and there he and his descendants for several generations lived and kept public house.

Originally of Dedham, the family removed to Mendon, Mass., where Peter was born in 1725. He married Ruth Rutter of Mendon and about the time named above he brought his wife and three little daughters to his new home in the wilderness—the mother on horseback, with

little Rachel in her arms, and Deborah and Huldah slung in baskets, one on each side of the horse.

In the spring of 1755 the French and Indian war broke out, and hearing of hostile Indians in his vicinity, Mr. Hayward, with his near neighbor, Ebenezer Day, of Keene, hurriedly took his family to the fort in Keene for safety; and then joined scouting parties to hunt the savages. His powder horn, with curious inscriptions, is still preserved by his descendants in Keene. His name appears also on the roll of Capt. Josiah Willard's company—April 18 to Nov. 27—which held the fort here in 1749, along with those of David Nims, Samuel Hills, Nathan Fairbanks and others of Upper Ashuelot and vicinity, which makes it probable that he was here then and previous to that time, with his neighbors, in the endeavor to prepare his home for his family.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hayward were members of the church here, and eight children were baptised—Deborah, Huldah, Rachel and Nathan in 1755, Sylvanus in 1757, William in 1759, all by Rev. Ezra Carpenter; and Ruth in 1762, and Molly in 1765, by Rev. Clement Sumner.

The great grandson of this hardy pioneer, Peter Baxter Hayward, succeeded Dea. Asa Duren in the bakery so long in operation, on the corner of Church and Main streets, and accumulated a large property. His brother (George O.) and daughter (Mrs. A. T. Batchelder) still reside in Keene. His widow, Mary Hills, died July 6, 1900.

SETH HEATON.

Seth Heaton, son of Nathaniel and Maria Heaton, of Wrentham, Mass., was born in 1710; married Thankful Field, of the same family as the celebrated Cyrus and David Dudley Field of recent years. He was one of the first party of seven that came to Upper Ashuelot in September, 1734, and of the second party that came the next year; but all returned for the winter in each case. In the spring of 1736 he came again, and built his log cabin during that summer on the west side of what is now the Marlboro road, where George M. Hodgkins now lives, No. 497. He took his first divisions of land and made his "pitches" in that

part of the township, and ultimately owned several hundred acres there, covering the south end of Beech hill and extending on both sides of the branch, including a large part of the intervale southwest of his cabin.

"One of the first things he did was to plant an orchard, and some years later, when the trees were partly grown and the Indians began to be troublesome, looking out from his cabin he saw one of the savages cutting down an apple tree. He took down his gun, and that Indian never cut any more trees." "He used to lie in his cabin, or under a brush heap, with his gun, and watch for lurking Indians while his wife milked the cows." (Heaton tradition.)

His log cabin was burned by the Indians when the township was abandoned, in 1747, but he was one of the first to return, and he built the low farmhouse, still standing on the east side of the street, opposite the site of his log cabin—the second from the old Mount Pleasant tavern—and lived and died there. He was at one time a lieutenant in the militia. It is a tradition in the family that that was the first framed house built in the township—doubtless now the oldest house in town—and it is still in possession of his descendants; but the large old chimney has been removed and two smaller ones substituted. His sons and other descendants afterwards built houses and lived along the same road, towards the branch; and some of the old barns still standing there were built by the elder Heaton.

Four of his sons were Revolutionary soldiers—William, Jonathan, Luther and Samuel. His children were: Seth, born 1740; Huldah, born 1742, married first, Samuel Wadsworth of Keene, and second, a Mr. Butterfield; David, born 1744; William, born 1746; Jonathan, born 1750, married Thankful Clark, of Lancaster, Mass.; Susanna, born 1752; Anna, born 1754, married Capt. John Griggs, of the Revolutionary army; Luther, born 1756; and Samuel, born 1759.

SAMUEL HEATON.

Samuel Heaton, youngest son of above, was born in 1759; married Sarah Boynton; lived on the homestead bequeathed to him by his father; was a corporal in the

company of Capt. Francis Towne of Rindge, Col. David Gilman's regiment, sent to reinforce Gen. Washington's army in December, 1776, and was in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. His children were: Samuel, born 1783; David, born 1785, married Rebecca Morse of Marlboro, lived on the homestead—a soldier in the war of 1812; Sally, born 1787; Seth, born 1790, married Betsey Nourse; Nancy, born 1792, married John Towns; Polly, born 1794. He died in 1830, aged seventy.

ADIN HOLBROOK.

Adin Holbrook was born in Wrentham, Mass., in 1752; came to Keene as early as 1776; was in Capt. Whitcomb's company, Ashley's regiment, on its march to the relief of Ticonderoga in the fall of 1776; was sergeant in Capt. Mack's company, Nichols's regiment, in the battle of Bennington, 1777; married Hannah, daughter of Ebenezer Day, of Keene; was a millwright and had a sawmill in the west part of the town; afterwards settled on the Holbrook farm, old Surry road, about 1780, and with his son, Adin, Jr., had a sawmill on the road—previously Partridge's—and built the present Holbrook house in 1806; with Capt. Joseph Dorr built and operated an oil mill on the stream a few rods below the sawmill; died 1843, aged ninety-one. His children were: Adin, Clarinda, Chloe, Enos, Cornelia, who were born between 1780 and 1792.

GEORGE INGERSOLL.

Major George Ingersoll, son of Daniel and Bethiah (Haskell) Ingersoll, of Boston, was born in 1754; enlisted in 1775 as a private in Col. Gridley's regiment of artillery, of Massachusetts; served through the Revolutionary war, receiving promotion to the rank of lieutenant; promoted to captain in the artillery and engineers in 1795; married, the same year, Martha Goldthwaite, of Boston, sister of the wives of Dr. Daniel Adams and Dea. James Lanman, of Keene; commandant at West Point, 1796 to 1801, while it was a military school, previous to the establishment of the military academy; promoted to major in the artillery service in 1803; resigned in 1804 on account of ill health; an original member of the Order of the Cincinnati.

While on a visit with his wife to her sisters in Keene, Major Ingersoll took a fancy to the place, and particularly to the house—then considered a fine one—which still stands west of the little pond at West Keene, between Black brook, which comes down from the north, and White brook, which joins it from the west. It had been built and kept as a tavern by Jesse Clark, and at that time was owned and kept by Joseph Brown. The major bought it, with the farm of eighty-three acres (for $4,000) hoping there to recuperate his health. Mrs. Ingersoll named it "Whitebrook," and they came there to live, in May, 1805; but he died in July of the same year, and was buried with military honors in the Washington street cemetery.

GEORGE G. INGERSOLL.

Rev. George G. Ingersoll, D. D., only son of Major George and Martha (Goldthwaite) Ingersoll, was born in Boston, in 1796; studied at Groton and Exeter academies; graduated at Harvard in 1815, and from Harvard Divinity school in 1818; married, 1822, Harriet Parkhurst (a pupil in Miss Fiske's school, whom he met while on a visit to his relatives in Keene); ordained in same year, pastor of the Unitarian church in Burlington, Vt.; resigned on account of ill health in 1844; settled at East Cambridge, Mass., in 1847, but the state of his health compelled his resignation in 1849, when he took up his residence in Keene. He sometimes supplied pulpits at Northampton, Brattleboro and other places, and spent the winter of 1859-60 preaching at Charleston, S. C. "He was a polished, genial man, with charming manners and a kindly wit." (Miss Dinsmoor's memorial.) "The Sydney Smith of our pulpit." (Christian Register.) At the centennial celebration in Keene, in 1853, he read a witty poem on local matters. He died in Keene in 1863.

CAROLINE HASKELL INGERSOLL.

Miss Caroline Haskell Ingersoll, daughter of Rev. George G. and Harriet (Parkhurst) Ingersoll, was born in 1827 With a refined taste for the beautiful in nature and art, she was an accomplished musician; and was likewise

remarkable for her executive ability. Learning that a beautiful pine grove at West Keene was about to be cut down for lumber, she immediately took up the work of preserving it for a public park, and raised the funds for its purchase by subscription from the ladies of Keene, aided by a few gentlemen of Keene, and former residents who had left the town. It was named the Ladies' Wildwood park, and she presented it to the city in 1887, as a gift from herself and the other subscribers, to be forever kept for a public pleasure ground under the exclusive control of the lady donors for twenty-five years. At the end of that period the management is to be vested in a board of three, the mayor, one alderman and one lady donor or the descendant of one, who are to constitute the Ladies' Park commissioners; and she bequeathed to the city $1,000 as a fund, the income to be used for the care of the park.

She also made several other bequests to various institutions in Keene and $1,000 for the fountain in Central park, as a memorial of her brother, to be called the "Allan Ingersoll Fountain." She died in Keene in 1893.

MOSES JOHNSON.

Moses Johnson was an enterprising trader here from 1787, or earlier, to 1804; also had a store in Walpole, but in 1799 removed all his goods to Keene and enlarged his business here; in 1788 had a store in Federal Row; built the store since known as the Railroad store, which gave place to Gurnsey's block; afterwards joined James Mann in their large store, subsequently owned by A. & T. Hall. His large potash and pearlash works on the ridge north of what is now Castle street, near a distillery which he owned, were so profitable that at one time, even in those early days, he received a check for $5,000 for his manufactured goods. When he came to Keene the ground where the railroad track now lies, on each side of Main street, and where the Sentinel building and the Watson house, south of the track, now stand, was a dense swamp, covered with a thick growth of alders, with only a narrow causeway across it in the middle of the present street. Mr. Johnson cleared away those alders and did

much towards filling that part of the swamp and making it solid ground. He also did a large amount of similar work near his distillery, filling in the old river bed, which ran along at the foot of the bluff near the present Tilden schoolhouse, and making it fertile land. So much did he accomplish for the benefit of the town that at the centennial celebration in 1853 a toast was given in his honor. But he was too generous and public spirited for his own good, was unfortunate in his investments, lost his property, and removed to New York state.

EDWARD JOSLIN.

Edward Joslin, son of David and Rebecca (Richardson) Joslin of Stoddard, was born in Stoddard, April 15, 1810, being the youngest of a family of fourteen children. He came to Keene in 1830 and went to live with the older Governor Dinsmoor, attending school where the Sentinel building now stands. In 1834, he associated himself with George Page and manufactured the first mortising machine made in this country (a foot-power machine) in a shop which stood on the lot now occupied by the Washington schoolhouse. In 1836 they took Thomas M. Edwards and Aaron Davis into partnership and moved to South Keene. About the same time J. A. Fay became a member of the firm. Messrs. Joslin and Fay bought out the other interests and the firm was Joslin & Fay. They brought out the first power mortising, tenoning and moulding machines ever made. About 1850 the firm erected the brick mill, 300x75 feet in size and two stories high, now occupied by the Fred P. Pierce Company. A Cincinnati branch was established about the same year, 1850, under the name of J. A. Fay & Co. The Fay company united with a rival, the Egan company, soon after 1890, the corporate name being the J. A. Fay & Egan Co. The capital stock was fixed at two million dollars, and it became the largest maker of wood-working machinery in this country, if not in the world. Mr. Joslin retained a large interest in the business.

Mr. Joslin was also interested financially in the Beaver mills, the Keene Furniture Company, the Cheshire Chair

Company, the Keene Steam Power Company, the C. B. Lancaster Shoe Company and other concerns. He was a director in the Keene National bank from 1850 to the time of his death, and was its president for thirty years. For many years he was a trustee and vice president of the Keene Five Cents Savings bank. He was also one of the committee to build the Keene water works and for many years was one of the water commissioners.

In 1847, Mr. Joslin married Sarah Hale Thayer, daughter of John Thayer of Keene. His children were Charles E. (who died in 1898), Sarah E. (who married Chester L. Kingsbury and who died in 1901), and Isabella H., who married Frank Crandall, of Yonkers, N. Y. Mr. Joslin died Nov. 21, 1901, universally esteemed and respected.

BENJAMIN KEENE.

Sir Benjamin Keene (for whom the town of Keene was named) was born in 1697, at King's Lynn, Norfolk. He was the eldest son of Charles Keene, merchant and first mayor of King's Lynn, in 1714, under King Charles II. His mother's name was Susan Rolfe. He was educated at Lynn free grammar school and at Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, where he graduated with the degree of LL. B., in 1718.

Through the influence of Sir Robert Walpole, a friend of the family, he was appointed agent of the South Sea Company at Madrid, and in 1724 was promoted to the British consulship at that city. In September, 1727, through the same influence, he was raised to the high post of minister plenipotentiary at Madrid. In 1729, he concluded a treaty of defensive alliance on the part of England with France and Spain. His double position of British minister and agent of the South Sea Company caused him annoyance and denunciation by political parties and by the press, but he retained his position until he had signed a convention with the Spanish minister in 1739; but as that failed to prevent the declaration of war between England and Spain, he was recalled, and returned to England. Horace Walpole described him at that time as "one of the best kind of agreeable men, quite fat and

lazy, with universal knowledge." In 1740, he represented the borough of Malden in Essex in parliament, and from 1741 to '47 he sat for that of West Looe in Cornwall. He was also a member of the board of trade and paymaster of pensions.

"In 1746 he was sent as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Portugal to bring about a peace with Spain, and in October, 1748, he quitted Lisbon to resume his old place at Madrid. He concluded, on 5 Oct., 1750, a treaty of commerce with Spain, when Henry Pelham referred to the abuse that had been showered on Keene, and claimed that 'he had acted ably, honestly, and bravely.' The Duke of Newcastle in 1754 wrote: 'I have at last got the ribbon [of the Bath] for Sir Benjamin;' and the compliment was heightened by the King of Spain performing the ceremony of investiture, whereupon the new knight took the motto of Regibus Amicis. In the summer of 1757 Keene was very ill, and wished to retire from his post, but on receiving Pitt's instructions to offer the restoration of Gibraltar and the evacuation of the settlements formed in the Bay of Mexico since 1748, if Spain would join Great Britain against France, he forced himself to make the offer. When leave to retire was at last conceded, and he was on the point of returning to England to enjoy a pension and a peerage, his illness proved fatal. He died at Madrid on 15 Dec., 1757. His body was brought to England and 'he was buried near his parents in the chapel of St. Nicholas, Lynn, a sarcophagus of white marble being placed over his grave. A half length portrait of him hangs in the King's Lynn town hall. He left the bulk of his fortune to his brother, Edmund Keene, D. D., bishop of Chester and afterwards of Ely.'

"Sir Robert Walpole 'had the highest opinion of Keene's abilities,' and in social life his 'indolent good humor' was very pleasing. Numerous manuscript letters by him, many in cipher, are among the Newcastle correspondence at the British Museum and in the collections described in the Historical Manuscript Commissioner's Reports. The correspondence and other documents which he left at his death passed to the son of his brother Edmund, and were submitted to Archdeacon Coxe for his historical works. Many printed letters to and from him are in the 'Chatham Correspondence,' 1,407, etc., 'Atterbury correspondence,' 5-256-8, and in the compilations of Archdeacon Coxe. From a passage in Kennicott's 'Dissertation on the Hebrew Text of the Old Testament' (page 358) it appears that Keene

interested himself in Spanish Manuscripts of the Bible."[1] (Sidney Lee's Dictionary of National Biography.)

DANIEL KINGSBURY.

Deacon Daniel Kingsbury, son of Daniel of Wrentham, Mass., a descendant of Joseph, who came from England about 1630 with his brother John and kinsman Henry, was born in 1742; came to Keene previous to 1764; married Molly; had twelve children born between 1767 and 1793, but none became permanent residents of Keene. Three of his sons, Darius, Theodore and Dr. David, went West. He was a member of the military company here in 1773, and a lieutenant in Capt. Davis Howlett's company in the campaign of 1777. He owned and lived on what has since been the town farm, three and one-half miles west of the Square, and was succeeded there by his son Joel. He was a prominent man in the community and held many important offices in town—moderator of annual town meetings seventeen years; selectman twelve years; representative to the Provincial congress in 1782; a magistrate; and a deacon of the church for forty-five years. He died in 1825, aged eighty-two.

NATHANIEL KINGSBURY.

Nathaniel Kingsbury, elder brother of Deacon Daniel, was born in 1739; married first, Mehitable Johnson; married second, 1769, Hannah Ware; married third, 1791, Rebecca Bigelow, of Walpole; had eleven children, born between 1766 and 1798, most of whom lived in Keene and vicinity. His descendants number upwards of eight hundred, scattered through the northern states. He was a member of the military company here in 1773, and was also in Capt. Davis Howlett's company in the campaign of 1777 He lived in the north part of the town, on what has since been known as the Ruffle farm. He died in 1803.

ABIJAH KINGSBURY.

Abijah Kingsbury, son of Nathaniel and Hannah (Ware) Kingsbury, was born 1778; married, 1803, Abigail,

[1] The story of Governor Wentworth's friendship for Sir Benjamin and his naming the town for him is told in the account of the granting of the charter of Keene in 1753, pages 103-4.

daughter of Deacon Abijah Wilder. They lived together fifty-three years and had eleven children, all of whom lived to the age of sixty-five years or more: William, born in 1804, married Huldah Stone; Charles, born in 1805, married Ruby Osgood; Josiah, born in 1807, married Sarah Baker; Abijah Wilder, born in 1809, married Emeline Wood; Albert, born in 1811, married Ann E. Lyman; Julia Ann, born in 1813, married Isaac Rand; Mary, born in 1815, married Jonas Parker; George, born in 1818, married Lydia W Briggs, of Keene; Abigail Martha, born in 1820, married Enoch W Winchester; Sarah, born in 1822, married George Rising, and lived in Kansas in the exciting and bloody times of the first settlement of that state; Elizabeth, born in 1827, married Deacon George P Drown. Many descendants of the family are still living in town. Mr. Kingsbury was an active citizen and did a large business, for those times, in shoemaking. He died in 1860, aged eighty-two.

ZEBADIAH KEYES.

Zebadiah Keyes (formerly spelled Kise) was born in Chelmsford, Mass., in 1776; married Sybil Dunn; came to Keene and with Moses H. Hale (Hale & Kise), in 1806, bought of Luther Smith the mills and water privilege on Ashuelot river, now Faulkner & Colony's, and carried on the milling and clothiers' business there until 1814, when they sold to John Maguire. His children were: Almira, born 1803, married John Colony, of Keene; Elbridge, born 1804, married, first, Martha W. Rugg, and second, Mary W Campbell, and was for many years a merchant in Keene, with Joshua D. Colony; Harriet, born 1807, married Nathaniel Evans, a merchant, of Keene; Susan B., born 1816, married Harvey A. Bill, editor of the Cheshire Republican.

WILLIAM LAMSON.

William Lamson, son of Joseph and Susanna (Frothingham) Lamson, was born in Charlestown, Mass., 1763; came to Keene on foot with his bundle slung on his cane over his shoulder, in May, 1787; bought of Capt. Josiah Richardson one-fourth of an acre of land—then an open

field—where Lamson block and the Keene Five Cents Savings bank now stand, and established a tannery. When he had paid for his land, put up a building for a currier's shop and bark mill, bought his stock, and had his tannery ready for business, he had just one pistareen (seventeen cents) left in his pocket. That he went out and spent for a mug of flip for himself and friends, and then went to work. When his own work was slack he would earn a little by "striking" for his near neighbor, a blacksmith. As business prospered his operations were extended and additional land was purchased until the estate comprised, besides outlying lands and mortgages, about eighty-eight thousand square feet on Main and West streets, which is still owned and occupied by his granddaughter, Mrs. Griffin. In 1790, he returned to Charlestown and married Margery Russell. The young couple came as far as New Ipswich in a chaise, but from there to Keene there was no road; so, both mounting one horse, the bride on a pillion behind her husband, with all her marriage outfit tied in a bundle, they came by a bridle path through the woods to their future home. Four sons and three daughters were born to them. The eldest son, William, was for many years a leading merchant and citizen of Keene, owning and occupying the large brick block on the corner of Roxbury street and the Square, which was burned in 1865. The third son, Charles, succeeded his father in business, and was a director in the Cheshire bank, and a trustee of the Cheshire Provident Institution for Savings.

Mr. Lamson was a man of great business capacity, staunch integrity, sound judgment, amiable and generous in disposition, prompt to aid worthy young men starting in life, and one who commanded the respect and esteem of all. He died in 1828, aged sixty-five, leaving, among other bequests, fifteen hundred dollars to aid in the erection of the first Unitarian meetinghouse, on the corner of Main and Church streets, and fifty dollars a year for five years towards the current expenses of that church and society.

FARNUM F. LANE.

Farnum F. Lane, son of Ezekiel and Rachel (Fish)

Lane, was born in Swanzey in 1816; was brought up on his father's farm; attended academies at Hancock and New Ipswich; taught school; studied law with Thomas M. Edwards; began practice at Winchester in 1843; removed to Walpole; came to Keene in 1849; was county solicitor for ten years; representative to the legislature from Walpole in 1847-8 and from Keene in 1862-3. Although not a popular advocate, he was well read in the law, prepared his cases with great thoroughness and managed them with sound judgment, and was a lawyer in whom the courts had great confidence and an antagonist whom other lawyers dreaded to meet. He married, 1846, Harriet, daughter of John and Harriet (Locke) Butler, of Winchester, by whom he had two daughters. He died in 1887.

THOMAS H. LEVERETT.

Thomas H. Leverett, son of Thomas and Susannah (Johnson, of London, Eng.) Leverett, a lineal descendant of Maj. Gen. Sir John Leverett, governor of Massachusetts in 1673-9, was born in Windsor, Vt., in 1806; was educated in the public schools and at Capt. Partridge's military school at Norwich, Vt.; came to Keene in 1836 and was cashier of the Ashuelot bank for thirty-three years; married, first, Harriet B. Nelson, by whom he had one daughter, Sarah D., who married Reuben A. Tuttle, of Boston; married, second, Abby Barnes, a teacher in Miss Fiske's school, by whom he had one daughter, Katharine F., a resident of Keene, one son who died in infancy, and one son, Frank J., who enlisted in the Ninth New Hampshire Volunteers and died in the service, at Paris, Ky., in 1863, aged nineteen.

Mr. Leverett was a genial, public spirited man, took a leading part and exercised a powerful influence in the interests of agriculture and horticulture; was the active agent in the organization of the Cheshire County Agricultural Society in 1847; and also active in the purchase and improvement, by the erection of suitable buildings, of its twenty-five acres of ground—now Wheelock park—and in the management for many years of its very successful exhibitions. He died in November, 1882.

ABIEL ABBOT LIVERMORE.

Rev. Abiel Abbot Livermore, D. D., was born in Wilton, N. H., in 1811; prepared for college at Phillips Exeter academy; graduated at Harvard in 1833, and at Harvard Divinity school in 1836; was ordained and settled over the Unitarian church in Keene at the close of the same year; married Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. Jacob Abbott.

His father was an intelligent farmer, prominent in his town and community. His mother was a member of the distinguished Abbot family of Wilton. He took high rank as a scholar, and was a "genuine, refined, high-minded man." Rev. Dr. Morrison, editor of the Christian Register, wrote of him: "The relation of the young pastor and his wife, a fitting helpmeet for such a man, to the people of their parish, and to the whole community in which they lived, has always seemed to me as happy a relation as I have ever known." While in Keene he did much for the cultivation of literary taste in the community, organized a large book club which contained all the choice periodicals of the day, and encouraged the study of the higher literary works, not only of English, but of German and other authors. He also edited a small paper, the Social Gazette, for the publication of the literary efforts of the young, and was always the beloved pastor and cherished friend. His lectures to young men and his prize essay on the Mexican war were published, and he edited the Cheshire collection of hymns.

After nearly fourteen years of very active labor in Keene his health gave way and he was compelled to resign his charge. Believing that he might continue his work in a milder climate he accepted a call to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1850, where he remained six years. After that, for seven years he was pastor of a church in Yonkers, N. Y., and in 1863 he was chosen president of the theological school at Meadville, Pa., and for twenty-seven years filled that position with remarkable ability and success. Besides the works already mentioned and many articles for various periodicals, he published a volume of sermons—Commentaries on the New Testament—which he began while in Keene; and for several years while at Yonkers he edited

the Christian Inquirer. His last work was that of writing the history of his native town, Wilton.

"Dr. Livermore deserves to be most gratefully remembered among us. His rounded completeness of life was matched by an equally happy poise and symmetry of character—a conjunction as admirable as it is rare. No breath of calumny ever ventured to question his integrity. His graceful and unfailing courtesy was a constant rebuke to our modern boorishness—a man made to be loved."

He died at Wilton in 1892.

DANIEL NEWCOMB.

Hon. Daniel Newcomb, son of Jonathan, was born in Norton (Mansfield), Mass., in 1747; graduated at Harvard in 1768; studied theology and preached a few years; read law with Judge Lowell of Boston; settled in Keene in 1778; married, 1781, Sarah Stearns of Lunenburg, Mass. The children by that marriage were: Sally, born in 1782, married John G. Bond of Keene; George, born in 1783, entered Dartmouth college when nine years old and was drowned in the Ashuelot river at the age of thirteen; Daniel, born in 1785, graduated at Dartmouth, studied medicine with Dr. Rush of Philadelphia, practiced in Boston and died at Keene in 1809; Seth, born in 1786, graduated at Harvard, practiced law in Keene and died in 1811; Henry S., born in 1788, was lieutenant in the army in 1812-14, and died in 1825; Levi, born in 1790 and died in the senior class of Dartmouth in 1810; Fanny, born in 1791, married Daniel D. Hatch of Keene; Charles, born in 1792, entered Harvard and went West; Walter, born in 1794, entered Harvard, left on account of sickness, entered the United States navy and died in the West Indies of yellow fever in 1822; Patty, born in 1796, married Dr. M. Johnson and died in Cleveland, O., in 1858.

His wife, Sarah, died in 1796.

He married, second, 1800, Hannah Dawes, widow of Benj. Goldthwaite of Boston. His children by the second marriage were: Hannah Dawes, born in 1803, never married, died 1887; William Dawes, born 1804; Francis, born 1807; Harriet, born 1809, married Rev. Fred West Holland, of Cambridge, Mass.; Lucretia, born in 1812, died in 1823.

In 1781, Daniel Newcomb, Esq., was a delegate from Keene to a convention at Walpole, and another at Charlestown, in the controversy concerning the New Hampshire Grants; was appointed chief justice of the inferior court for the county of Cheshire in 1790; was delegate from Keene to the constitutional convention of New Hampshire in 1781, and again in 1791-2, and was chairman of the committee that drafted our present state constitution; was appointed judge of the superior court of New Hampshire in 1796; representative to the legislature, 1795; state senator, 1795-6, 1800-1, 1805-6.

Judge Newcomb's office, during his later years, was in the small building already described in the sketch of Gov. Dinsmoor, senior. Besides owning many houses, farms and other tracts of land—many of them obtained through mortgages—he bought the site of the first meetinghouse in Keene in 1795, and built a fine colonial house on that lot; and there he spent the remainder of his life. Being at the head of the Cheshire county bar, and wealthy, he entertained liberally, particularly at court time.[1]

Judge Newcomb was an eminent and public spirited citizen and did much for the benefit of the town. He established, and for some years supported, a grammar school in Keene almost wholly at his own expense. He sent six sons to college, two of whom died before graduating, and one left on account of sickness. Nearly all his children died young. He had an impediment in his speech, not stuttering, but complete paralysis of the vocal organs when excited. He died July 14, 1818, aged seventy-two. His widow, Hannah Dawes, died in 1855, aged sixty-seven.

DAVID NIMS.

David Nims, of Huguenot descent, was the son of Ebenezer and Sarah (Hoyt) Nims, both of whom were among the captives taken from Deerfield, Mass., to Canada

[1] Before the judge's grounds were graded there was a slight depression in his yard, where water stood after a heavy rain. One evening a party of the legal profession and others dined with the judge and partook of his excellent wine. Among the number was Dr. Philip Carrigan, who published an excellent map of New Hampshire near the close of the eighteenth century. A rain had made the ground slippery and filled the depression, and as the party came out one of them slipped, lost his balance, and plunged into the pool of water. Before attempting to rise he called out, "Carrigan! Carrigan!" "What do you want?" asked the doctor. "Put down on your map of New Hampshire a thundering great mud puddle right in front of Judge Newcomb's house."

in 1704, and were married while in captivity. He was born in Deerfield, in 1716; came to Upper Ashuelot in 1736–7; was chosen "scribe" of the proprietors in July, 1737; a member of the church at its formation in 1738; one of the thirty-nine settlers who received grants of ten acres of land from the proprietors in 1740 "for hazarding their lives and estate by living here to bring forward the settling of the place." In 1742 he married Abigail, daughter of Eliezer and Abigail (Wells) Hawks of Deerfield, niece of John Hawks. He had bought, in 1739, of Daniel Haws, one of the original proprietors and first settlers of Upper Ashuelot, a part of the farm east of our present Washington street, since known as the Lucien B. Page farm,[1] adding to it later, and built his log cabin there—which was burned by the Indians when the place was abandoned in 1747. Very soon after the settlement was broken up he enlisted in Capt. Josiah Willard's company of regular troops of Massachusetts stationed at the two Ashuelots, and served in that company through the seasons of 1747, '48 and '49. He was one of the first to return to the settlement, doubtless as early as 1750 (he may have built a log cabin and brought his wife back earlier, for troops were "billeted" on families here in 1749), and soon afterwards built his house on the site of the present residence of Charles Wright, 2d, and lived and died there. (The Nims house was removed about 1884–5 to Page street, No. 39, and is one of the oldest houses in town).

At the first town meeting under the New Hampshire charter, in May, 1753, David Nims was chosen town clerk, and he held that office for seven consecutive years, ten in all; was town treasurer six years; moderator of annual town meetings six years; selectman nine years; and for more than twenty years was otherwise prominent in town affairs.

By one of the proprietors' divisions of land he received 104 acres of land near the east line of the town, in what is now Roxbury, conveyed it to his son, David, Jr., in

[1] "The meadows on Beaver brook were a part of his farm, and in the early days he used to employ Thomas Wells, who was a great hunter—the 'Farmer Wells' who furnished Hon. Salma Hale much material for his 'Annals of Keene'—to watch with his gun for Indians while he worked on his farm." (William S. Briggs.)

1763; and it is still in possession of his descendants. In the military organizations in Keene in 1773, David Nims was on the alarm list, and his five sons, David, Jr., Asahel, Eliakim, Zadock and Alpheus, were in the ranks of the regular militia company; and Asahel, Eliakim and Alpheus were in the Revolutionary army.

He died July 21, 1803, aged eighty-seven. Forty of his descendants followed him to the grave. His wife, Abigail Hawks Nims, died in 1799, aged eighty, and at that time their descendants numbered—children, ten; grandchildren, fifty; great grandchildren, twenty-one. From them "descended all of that name now living in this vicinity, and the whole number of their progeny is about two thousand." His portrait, painted by Jeremiah Stiles[1] (see Stiles sketch), presented to the city of Keene by one of Mr. Nims's descendants, hangs in the Thayer library building.

ASAHEL NIMS.

Asahel Nims, third son[2] of David Nims, was born in 1749. Upon reaching his majority he bought of Lieut. Benjamin Hall 114 acres of land in the north part of the town—now a part of Sullivan—set to work to clear it, built a house, and became engaged to be married. When the Lexington alarm reached Keene, on the 20th of April, 1775, he joined his neighbors at the meeting on the common that afternoon. Thirty men volunteered to go "to oppose the regulars." Tradition says that one of them grew faint-hearted and skulked away, and that Asahel Nims offered to take his place. He was accepted, was made a sergeant at the organization of the company, and at the battle of Bunker Hill was instantly killed.

ELIAKIM NIMS.

Eliakim Nims, brother of Asahel, was born in 1751; lived with his father when a young man; one of the thirty patriots who marched from Keene with Capt. Wyman on the 21st of April, 1775, and was in the battle of Bunker Hill; was in Col. Isaac Wyman's regiment in the northern army in 1776; member of the committee of safety in 1776;

[1] The portrait was restored for preservation by Mr. Geo. H. Tilden.
[2] David, Jr., was the eldest. Asahel, the second, died in infancy.

LANMON NIMS.

married Abigail, daughter of Nathaniel Briggs of Keene; removed to the north part of the town, now a part of Sullivan (probably took his brother Asahel's farm); was given the title, and possibly held the rank in the militia, of captain; was selectman of Sullivan in 1795; died in that town, aged about ninety-five.

EBENEZER NIMS.

Ebenezer Nims, elder brother of David, was born in Canada in 1713; married, 1735, Mercy, daughter of Samuel Smead; came to Upper Ashuelot in 1736-7; was chosen collector of taxes for the proprietors in May, 1737; one of the original members of the church in 1738; one of those to receive a grant of land from the proprietors in 1740 for hazarding his life to bring forward the settlement of the town; returned with the settlers and was town treasurer in 1754 and selectman in 1757 and '58; lived in the fort; had a daughter Mary, born in 1756. He was on the alarm list in 1773; and removed to Deerfield, Mass.

LANMON NIMS.

Lanmon Nims, son of Asahel and Mary (Heaton) Nims, and grandson of David, Jr., was born in Sullivan, N. H., 1811; was carpenter, contractor, miller and wheelwright. After a few years in business at Peterboro, Swanzey, and on Ferry brook in Keene, he came to the village, and in 1850 bought the small mills then in operation on Mechanic street, enlarged them and established the sàsh, door and blind business, taking in Daniel Buss, and later Cyrus Woodward, as partners. The plant was again enlarged, and in 1859 Mr. Nims sold to Buss & Woodward. After four years spent at White River Junction and in the Fairbanks mills (on Ralston street) in Keene, he returned (1863) to the Mechanic street mills, and, with Samuel B. Crossfield (Nims & Crossfield) leased power and continued his former business there. In March, 1864, the boiler exploded, killed two workmen, injured five others, and wrecked the buildings. In the spring of 1867 the firm bought the property and rebuilt, but in August of the same year all was destroyed by fire. In 1868 the present

mills were built by the Keene Steam Power Company and leased to Nims, Crossfield & Co. In 1873 the firm became Nims, Whitney & Co., and still continues the same, although Mr. Nims died in 1887. He built the present city hall, under Mr. Charles E. Parker, architect, the first Methodist meetinghouse, and about fifty other buildings in town, some of them houses of the best class.

With only a common school education, but with a love of books, particularly those on history, science and mechanics, he became a remarkably well-informed man.

He was twice married and had eleven children—three sons and eight daughters.

BENJAMIN NOURSE.

Benjamin Nourse—original name Nurse—was born in Rutland, Mass., 1744; married Mercy Stevens, an English girl; was a Revolutionary soldier from Packersfield, in 1775; sold his farm in Packersfield—in the part that is now Roxbury—towards the close of the Revolutionary war, taking his pay in Continental money which proved to be almost worthless, and came to Keene; had thirteen children, Phineas, Silas, Isaac, Benjamin, Jr., Francis, and eight girls; lived with his son Phineas; made baskets, some of which are still in existence, on the same farm. He and his wife died on the same day, in 1840, at the house of their daughter, Charity, second wife of Ephraim Wright, 2d. His age was ninety-six; his wife's, ninety-three.

PHINEAS NOURSE.

Phineas Nourse, son of Benjamin and Mercy (Stevens) Nourse, was born in 1775; married Anna Thompson of Keene, sister of Aaron, Daniel and Thomas. After living about fifteen years in Littleton, N. H., he returned to Keene, and with his son Calvin, in 1823, bought of the heirs of Peleg Sprague the farm on Beech hill now known as the Luther Nourse farm. Jacob Stiles had owned the place in early days, and had sold to Abraham Wheeler, Jr., in 1771. The house and barn, both still standing, were built by Wheeler, who was afterwards colonel of militia and tavern keeper in Ash Swamp. The house was

built in 1773, and the barn was raised on the day of the battle of Bunker Hill. Wheeler sold to Sprague, who died in that house.

The house is of the usual farmer's pattern of the old style, showing heavy oak timbers below and pine ones above, a large chimney in the middle with its ample fireplace (though now partly rebuilt) provided with crane and pot-hooks, and its brick oven and ash hole. Some of the finish still remaining is of pine boards three feet in width, with doors made of a single board hung on wooden hinges and fastened with wooden latches, as in the olden time.

Like his father, Phineas Nourse had thirteen children, Calvin, Luther, George, Phineas, Jr., four other sons, and five daughters.

The history of this Nourse family is a remarkable one. They are descendants of Rebecca Towne,[1] wife of Francis Nourse, who was hanged as a witch at Salem, Mass., July 19, 1692, at the age of seventy-one. Her body was thrown among the rocks, but was rescued by her family and buried in the family lot at Danvers, Mass. Many years afterwards a monument was erected to her memory and dedicated with memorial services. Whittier wrote for that occasion the lines:

"Oh, Christian Martyr, who for truth could die
When all about thee owned the hideous lie,
The world redeemed from superstition's sway
Is breathing freer for thy sake today."

DAVID OLIPHANT.

Rev. David Oliphant was born in Waterford, N. Y., in 1791; graduated at Union college, 1809, and Andover Theological seminary in 1813; came to Keene as a candidate in November, 1814; ordained May 24, 1815; married in September, 1815, Mary, daughter of Dr. Abiel Pearson, of Andover, Mass.; dismissed from Keene in the autumn of 1817. It was said that one cause of his unpopularity and dismissal was that he took strong ground against the prevailing intemperance. His ministry here was "somewhat less than three years, and yet he made a

[1] The greatest American woman artist (painter) in Paris in 1900 was Miss Elizabeth C. Nourse, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a direct descendant of this Rebecca Nourse who was hanged at Salem. (Vance Thompson, in Cosmopolitan Magazine, 1900.)

great and lasting impression upon the people." Ninety-one were added to the church, and he baptized 129 persons.

After leaving Keene he was soon settled over the Third church in Upper Beverly, Mass., where he was a successful minister for sixteen years. He was then dismissed, and soon settled again in Wells, Me. He died in 1872. Many pages of the old church records are in his clear, elegant handwriting.

ELIJAH PARKER.

Elijah Parker, Esq., son of Capt. Stephen and Mary (Morse) Parker of New Ipswich and Packersfield, N. H., was born in New Ipswich in 1776, but the family removed to Packersfield when Elijah was about two years old. Capt. Parker commanded his company in the Revolutionary war, and had somewhat intimate relations with Washington. Elijah gained his education by his own efforts; graduated at Dartmouth, 1806; read law with George B. Upham of Claremont, and Foster Alexander of Keene; began practice here in 1813; married, 1814, Sally, daughter of Rev. Aaron Hall. He was at one time in partnership with Joel Parker (E. & J. Parker), and later with Salma Hale. Mr. Parker did a large office business, and settled many estates, but seldom appeared as an advocate. In 1814, the year of his marriage, he bought of Luther Smith, the clockmaker, the house on the north corner of School and Court streets, which was replaced a few years ago by the present residence there, and lived there until his death, in 1858, at the age of eighty-two. His widow lived there until 1875, when she died at the age of ninety-two.

His children were: David Hall, born in 1815, married Elizabeth Britton, died in 1868; Mary Morse, born in 1817, married Hon. Joel Parker; Elijah Wellman, born in 1819, died in infancy; Henry Elijah, born in 1821, pastor of a Congregational church in Concord, N. H., chaplain of the Second New Hampshire Volunteers in 1861, professor in Dartmouth college; Horatio G., born in 1823, an eminent lawyer in Boston; Charles Edward, born in 1826, architect in Boston, designed St. James's church, the city hall and several residences in Keene. The celebrated musician, Horatio W. Parker, is the son of Charles Edward.

JOEL PARKER.

Hon. Joel Parker, LL. D., son of Abel and Edith (Jewett) Parker, was born in Jaffrey, N. H., in 1795; fitted at Groton academy, Mass.; graduated at Dartmouth, 1811; read law with his brother Edmund, at Amherst, N. H.; began practice in Keene in 1816; spent one year in Columbus, Ohio; returned to Keene and was for several years a partner with Elijah Parker, Esq.; represented Keene in the legislature in 1824, '25 and '26; was appointed judge of the superior court of judicature of New Hampshire in 1833; and chief justice of the same in 1838; and he is acknowledged to have been one of the most able and learned of all the chief justices New Hampshire has had. In a conflict of opinion between him and Chief Justice Story of Massachusetts, Judge Parker was sustained by the supreme court of the United States. In 1840 he was chairman of the commission to revise the statutes of New Hampshire. In 1847 he was appointed Royal professor in the Harvard Law school, removed to Cambridge, and held that position for twenty years. In the same year of this appointment he was also appointed professor of jurisprudence in Dartmouth college; and after his resignation from the chair at Harvard he was non-resident professor of law at Dartmouth, and left a part of his fortune to establish a law department in that institution. He received the degree of LL. D. from Dartmouth in 1837, and from Harvard in 1848. He was a member of the Massachusetts constitutional convention in 1853, and of a commission to revise the statutes of that state in 1855; and he contributed many learned and valuable papers to various publications, and to the Massachusetts Historical Society and other organizations.

In 1848, he married Mary Morse, daughter of Elijah Parker, Esq., of Keene, by whom he had two sons and two daughters. He died at Cambridge, Mass., August 17, 1875.

His father, Hon. Abel Parker of Jaffrey, for many years judge of probate for Cheshire county, was a Revolutionary soldier and paid a comrade to exchange places with him and give him the privilege of going into the fight at Bunker Hill, where he was severely wounded.

In private life Judge Joel Parker was dignified in his deportment, yet genial and even fascinating in conversation; and his character was of the highest. He was especially fond of flowers and the cultivation of them, and he set many rare plants and shrubs in the garden of the Hall parsonage, which is now occupied by the Pond residence on West street. He also planted and cultivated an orchard of rare fruit in the west part of the town.

JUSTUS PERRY.

Gen. Justus Perry, son of Dr. Justus and Martha (Frost) Perry, was born in Marlboro, N. H., in 1788; educated in the public schools; apprenticed to David Wilkinson of Marlboro to learn the saddler's trade; bought his minority at the age of nineteen and set up in business for himself in a small store at old Marlboro Centre on the hill; came to Keene in 1812 and succeeded Sparhawk & Davis in a store on the east side of the Square, formerly John G. Bond's. He brought his mother and her young children with him and supported them. When the manufacture of flint glass on Marlboro street failed—from the influx of foreign goods after the war of 1812—he bought the property at a low price, and when the business revived made it very profitable.

He married first, Mary H. Edwards of Boston. The children by that marriage were: Horatio Justus; Mary Olivia, married Edward Parkman Tuckerman, a noted musician. He married second, Hannah Wood, of Concord, Mass. The children by that marriage were: Ellen Elizabeth, married Dr. Edward Pearson, of Salem, Mass.; Martha Ann—author and poetess—married Rev. Charles Lowe, of Exeter, N. H.; Henry, who died young.

He was successful in business; popular among the people; commanded the Ashuelot Cavalry, and rose to the rank of major general of the militia; built the fine house which stands on what is known as the Coolidge lot, just north of city hall; collected a valuable library; and was a leading and influential man in all good works. He died in 1840, aged fifty-two.

JUSTUS PERRY.

(Both tombstone and town records say that Gen. Perry died Dec. 10, 1842, aged 53. The sketch on opposite page should be corrected accordingly.)

HORATIO J. PERRY.

Horatio J. Perry, son of Justus and Mary (Edwards) Perry, was born in Keene in 1824; graduated at Harvard in 1844; studied law with Wm. P. Wheeler, in Keene, and completed his course at the Harvard Law school. While the Mexican war was in progress he joined the United States forces at Vera Cruz and was appointed volunteer aid on the staff of Gen. Shields, with the rank of captain. He was called home by the death of his sister, Mrs. Tuckerman; travelled in Europe and spent a winter in the West Indies on account of his health. His ability, and his knowledge of the Spanish language, brought him the appointment of secretary of legation at the court of Spain from President Taylor, in 1849; and he held that position for twenty years, through several changes of administration—under Ministers Barringer of North Carolina, Pierre Soulé of Louisiana, Carl Schurz and Gustav Koener—sometimes acting as chargé d' affaires; and from 1861 to 1865, he was acting minister.

In 1852, he married Carolina Corenado, "poet-laureate of Spain," a lady much admired for her genius and social qualities, and his home was a notable resort for statesmen and men of letters and position in Madrid. He and his wife "were on the most cordial terms with the queen mother, Christiana," and they occupied a country residence which had belonged to her, which he fitted up with choice pictures and works of art. "His hospitality to Americans was unbounded."

In 1854, in the absence of Mr. Soulé, he managed the settlement of the Black Warrior affair in a way to break up the scheme of Southern politicians to bring on a war with Spain and thus secure the island of Cuba for the extension of slavery. During our Civil war he was nearly all the time in charge of the legation, and by his adroit and statesmanlike diplomacy he induced the Spanish government—which was inclined to take the side of the South—to issue a proclamation of neutrality, compelling the Rebel cruiser, Sumpter, to withdraw from the harbor of Cadiz. For that skillful diplomacy he twice received from Mr. Seward expressions of the entire confidence of

President Lincoln, for his "loyalty, ability and diligence," and the "greatest satisfaction" with his delicate and successful management of the whole affair. Only political intrigue at this time prevented his appointment as minister, undoubtedly the most fitting appointment that could have been made. He died in Lisbon in 1891.

SILAS PERRY.

Silas Perry, a Revolutionary soldier, was born in Leominster, Mass., in 1763; was one of the guard that escorted André to the gallows. In December, following, his term expired and he returned on foot through the snow to his home in Leominster, Mass.; married Catherine Hale; came to Keene in 1800, or earlier, and settled on the farm on the old Walpole road, four miles from town, still owned by his grandson, Joseph G.; died in 1852, aged 89.

JOSEPH PERRY.

Joseph Perry, son of Silas and Catherine (Hale) Perry, was born in 1788; graduated at Dartmouth in 1811; preceptor of academy connected with that college until 1816; teacher of mathematics in New York city until 1832; appointed to a clerkship in Washington, afterwards to a principal clerkship in the postoffice department until 1841; retired to his farm in Keene; appointed by Gov. Dinsmoor the first school commissioner for Cheshire county, in 1850–1; died in 1865.

JOHN PRENTISS.

Hon. John Prentiss was born in Reading, Mass., in 1778; learned the printer's trade; came to Keene in March, 1799, and established the New Hampshire Sentinel. To do that he bought the old type and hand press of a job printing office here in town, paid five dollars down, and started his paper with seventy subscribers at one dollar and fifty cents per annum. That paper has been published every week since that time, and is now a very valuable piece of property; and the grandson of the founder, William H. Prentiss, is now city editor and one of the owners of the paper. At type setting and all office work Mr. Prentiss was remarkably expert, and he did a large job printing

HORATIO J. PERRY.

and publishing business for those times, sometimes printing and selling a hundred thousand copies of Adams's arithmetic in a year, and still larger numbers of spelling and other school books, besides standard historical works, such as Hale's History of the United States, and many others; and they were bound by George Tilden and others here in Keene.

When Mr. Prentiss first came to Keene he boarded at the old Wyman tavern, then kept by William Ward Blake, who had married Col. Wyman's daughter, Roxana. He married, in 1802, Diantha Aldrich, of Westmoreland, and they had eight children: Diantha, born in 1803, married Rev. Charles Robinson, of Groton, Mass.; Corinna, born in 1805, married Judge Hopkinson, of Lowell, Mass.; John W., born in 1806, married Eleanor May, was at one time principal owner of the Sentinel, and died in 1863; George A., born in 1809, a commodore in the United States navy, died in 1868; two daughters who died in childhood; Edmund, born in 1820 and died in 1846; Pamela, born in 1821, married Hon. Henry F. French, of Concord, Mass.

For more than fifty years Mr. Prentiss wielded a powerful influence in the town and county. He was often radical in his views, but no one doubted his honesty. He was an earnest advocate of temperance and prohibition, foremost in religious discussions and controversies, and in movements for the advancement of education. He was one of the active and aggressive spirits in the secession and organization of the Keene Congregational Society (Unitarian), and an earnest supporter of its earlier ministers. He held the offices of town clerk, town treasurer, representative, state senator and other responsible positions; and for sixty-seven years was a prominent Mason.

In 1808 he established a homestead on the New Hampshire turnpike—on the site of the present residence of Major O. G. Dort, Court street—and built a business block in 1825 on the west side of the Square, now owned by the heirs of E. G. Whitcomb. In 1750 he was a delegate to the peace convention at Frankfort-on-the-Main, and travelled extensively in Great Britain and on the continent, writing letters which were published in the Sentinel. He died in 1873, aged ninety-five.

ALEXANDER RALSTON.

Alexander Ralston was born in Falkirk, Scotland, in 1755; married Janet Balloch, of the same place. Her family was one of rank and they opposed the match, but she escaped with her lover, and they were married "by the Rev. Mr. Etiherson, of Falkirk, Dec. 10, 1767." (Falkirk records.) She was then eighteen years old. They came to this country in 1773, and to Keene in 1775. He owned and kept—probably built—the Ralston tavern, elsewhere described, and he also owned several farms and much other real estate in and about the village, had a distillery on Packersfield road, and for several years was the largest taxpayer in town. Ralston street was named for him.

Their children were: Mary, born in 1768, in Falkirk, Scotland, married Elijah Dunbar, of Keene; Elizabeth, born in 1770, in Falkirk, married Sylvester Tiffany; Janette, born in 1773, in Charlestown, Mass., married Ithamar Chase; Hannah, born in 1775, in Keene, married Jonathan Chase, of Cornish, N. H.; Alexander, born in 1778, in Keene (in trade with Wm. M. Bond and went to Claremont); Ann, born in 1781, in Keene, and died young; James B., born in 1783, in Keene; Nancy, born in 1785, in Keene, married Wm. M. Bond,[1] of Keene; Sally, born in 1788, in Keene, married James H. Bradford, of Keene; and William.

Mrs. Ralston was a very talented woman, and her daughters were noted for their beauty and brilliancy. "Mrs. Ralston told my father, Abijah Metcalf, that when she came from Scotland she brought her stocking full of gold." (Dea. William Metcalf.) After the death of her husband, in 1819, she lived for many years in one of her own houses, on Main street, where the "Appleton house" now stands, but was at Cornish, with her daughter, Mrs. Jonathan Chase, when she died in 1833.

JAMES REED.

Gen. James Reed was born in Woburn, Mass., in 1724, of English ancestry; married Abigail Hinds of New Salem,

[1] See sketch of Wm. M. Bond for divorce and remarriage.

Mass.; lived in Brookfield; removed to Lunenburg, to the part that is now Fitchburg, and kept tavern where the city hall now stands; was for several years a captain in the last French and Indian war, in the campaign against Ticonderoga under Gen. Abercrombie in 1758, and under Gen. Amherst in 1759; rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel; was one of the first settlers of Fitzwilliam, about 1765; raised a company in that town upon the Lexington alarm, April 19, 1775, and marched to Medford; was made colonel of the Third New Hampshire regiment; commanded his regiment at the battle of Bunker Hill, and had the credit of being the last field officer to leave the field; marched with the army to New York after the siege of Boston; was entrusted by Washington with funds to pay the northern army and carried three boxes of specie—$300,000—to Gen. Schuyler, at Albany; joined Arnold's army on its retreat from Canada, and in Arnold's absence held a talk with the chiefs of the Indian tribes, received their pledge of friendship and transmitted it to congress. In that campaign he contracted the disease so prevalent in that army, small pox, which caused the loss of his sight. On the 9th of August, upon the recommendation of Gen. Washington, congress appointed him a brigadier general and the next day sent him his commission with the following letter:

"Philadelphia, August 10, 1776.

"Sir: The Congress having yesterday been pleased to promote you to the rank of brigadier-general in the army of the American states I do myself the pleasure to enclose your commission and wish you happy.

I am, Sir,

Your most ob't and very humble serv't.

John Hancock, President.

To Brigadier General James Reed."

But his impaired health and blindness compelled him to resign his commission. He retired to Fitzwilliam at the close of that year, and was granted a pension in accordance with his rank—half pay, amounting to $750 per year. In 1779 the legislature granted him (at a small rental) the confiscated house and twenty-five acres of land of Dr. Josiah Pomeroy, on the west side of Main street,

and he came to Keene that year[1] or the next and lived here until 1793, when he returned to Fitzwilliam. Mrs. Reed died in Keene, and the slate headstone from her grave in the old south burying ground is still preserved in the new cemetery,[2] bearing the inscription: "In memory of Mrs. Abigail, wife of Genl. James Reed, Who departed this Life August 27th, 1791, In the 68 year of her Age."

In April, 1783, the Society of the Cincinnati was formed, and General Reed of Keene was one of the charter members of the New Hampshire branch. He had nine children, and three of his sons, James, Sylvanus and Hinds, served in the Revolutionary army. His daughter, Saloma, married Lockhart Willard, of Keene. He was a man of the highest honor and integrity, and in the patriot army, from Washington down, his name was mentioned in terms of commendation and eulogy. About the year 1800 he removed to his former home in Fitchburg, Mass., near the present city hall, and died there, Feb. 13, 1807, aged eighty-three, and was buried with military honors. His monument stands in the old burying ground in Fitchburg, and his portrait hangs in the state house at Concord.

JOSIAH RICHARDSON.

Capt. Josiah Richardson, son of James and Sarah (Fowle) Richardson, was born in Leominster, Mass., in 1742; married first, Rebecca Beaman, of Leominster; came to Keene in 1770, or earlier, and kept a tavern and store on Poverty Lane, about where the St. James parish house now stands. He bought all the land on the west side of upper Main street from the south line of the present railroad, extending west as far as the present Horatio Colony estate, and north to the old Sun tavern on the Walpole road, and to the present Mechanic street on Prison street, including the greater part of Central square. In 1773 the town granted him the right to "remove" the road running west from Main street, called Poverty Lane, to Pleasant street (now West), thus opening the east end of that street from the meetinghouse, which then stood

[1] State Papers, vol. 11, pages 672–4; and Revolutionary Rolls, vol. 3, page 433.

[2] Since Gen. Griffin's death the stone has been removed to the Washington street cemetery.—EDS.

where the soldiers' monument now does, on its present line. He then built his new tavern where the Y. M. C. A. building now stands. He also built a store, afterwards occupied by his son-in-law, Joseph Dorr, and others, on what is now Elliot's corner; and gave the lot for Rev. Aaron Hall's house, west of his own, and that for the Centre or Church street schoolhouse. He is described in deeds drawn in 1771-2-3 and later as merchant, trader, and innholder. In 1814 he sold the corner lot mentioned above to Appleton & Elliot.

He was in the battle of Bunker Hill, and in 1777 he was lieutenant in Capt. Mack's company, Col. Nichols's regiment at the battle of Bennington. Toward the close of the fight, after our troops had carried the works and the enemy was pretty thoroughly demoralized, Lieut. Richardson came upon three Hessians. Being a powerful, resolute man, he commanded them, in an imperious voice, to surrender. Accustomed to obey the command of an officer, they complied at once; and he disarmed them and sent them to the rear as prisoners. In 1780, he was captain of one of the militia companies of Keene that marched to repel the Royalton raid, and was afterwards promoted to major. He was five years selectman, two years town treasurer, six years representative, and was chosen, by a convention of the legislature, from the house to the state council in 1788. He was the first postmaster in Keene, appointed by the state of New Hampshire in March, 1791, before the United States assumed the carrying of the mails.

Capt. Richardson's wife, Rebecca, died in 1779, leaving one daughter, Abigail, who married Joseph Dorr, a merchant of Keene. He married, second, Mrs. Abigail (Bellows) Hunt, daughter of Col. Benjamin Bellows, of Walpole—"a woman of rare moral and intellectual endowments." By her he had one son, Josiah, who was killed in infancy by falling from his mother's arms while on her way to Walpole on horseback.

He died in 1820, aged seventy-eight.[1]

[1] In those early days one of the routes by which Englishmen reached Montreal was via Boston, and thence by stage through Keene and Burlington, spending the night in Keene. Tradition, well authenticated, tells us that the Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria (or according to some reports, Prince Edward, then governor of Canada), once made that trip, when a young man,

ERI RICHARDSON.

Eri Richardson, son of Dr. Amos, who was of the fourth generation from Samuel, who came from Kent, England, in 1630 with his two brothers, Ezekiel and Thomas, in the same ship with Governor Winthrop, was born in Billerica, Mass., in 1741; married Sarah, daughter of John Durant; came to Keene about 1780; lived on the last farm in Keene on the old road over West mountain towards Swanzey; had twelve children, all born in Keene between 1764 and 1789. His eldest son, Amos, from his size and strength called "the giant," settled on the first farm in Swanzey next south of his father.

BARZILLAI RICHARDSON.

Barzillai Richardson, son of Amos, called the giant, was born in 1792; married Lydia Foster of Swanzey; settled on the Dickinson farm on West mountain (now Scripture's) and lived there thirty years; had ten children—six sons and four daughters—born between 1815 and 1833. All the sons and all the husbands of the daughters became railroad men early in life and served an average of thirty years each, or an aggregate of 300 years for the family. They aided in building the Worcester railroad in 1833, the Boston & Albany in 1835, the Cheshire and many others. Amos, the eldest, had charge of laying all the first track of the Cheshire railroad, and was afterwards roadmaster. Joel F., the second son, bought his minority of his father at nineteen, was twelve years on the Boston & Albany, went to Indiana, originated and built the very successful belt road around the city of Indianapolis; and was for nine years superintendent of the Indianapolis, Cincinnati & Lafayette railroad. He was thirty-nine years in railroad service. Eri, the fourth son, after twenty-six years in railroad service, invested largely in Sioux City, and became a banker and a wealthy man. One of the sons-in-law, Geo.

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and lodged at Capt. Richardson's tavern. The story goes on to say that before supper he gave Mrs. Richardson (the second wife, Abigail), some of the tea which he carried with him and asked her to brew it for him for both supper and breakfast; that she took the tea to her kitchen, laid it carefully aside as a keepsake, and brewed of her own for him; and that he did not discover the trick. Mrs. Richardson had the reputation of once saving the life of Salmon P. Chase, when, in his boyhood, he was attacked with malignant typhus fever, by her unremitting care and skillful nursing.

W Perry, was the engineer who ran the first passenger train into Keene, in 1848, and was afterwards master mechanic. Another son-in-law, Niles Aldrich, was engineer and conductor on the Cheshire road for thirty-five years.

HENRY ROWE SCHOOLCRAFT.

Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, LL. D., ornithologist, United States Indian agent, and author, was born at Watervleit, N. Y., in 1793; graduated at Union college in 1811; learned the art of glass making.

His grandfather came from England, surveyed land, taught school, and changed the family name from Calcroft to Schoolcraft. His father, Lawrence Schoolcraft, was superintendent of a glass factory near Albany, N. Y.—had been a soldier in the Revolutionary war and a colonel in the war of 1812—came to Keene about 1814 as an expert to superintend the manufacture of glass, and remained several years. Henry came to Keene with his father, and the next year Daniel Watson, Timothy Twitchell and young Schoolcraft seceded from the company on Prison street, united as partners, built a factory, and made flint glass bottles and decanters on Marlboro street, and had a store on Main street near the present Eagle Hotel. Afterwards Watson—and still later Twitchell—withdrew, Nathaniel Sprague joined, and the firm became Schoolcraft & Sprague.

In 1817 Schoolcraft published the first part of his treatise on vitreology; and his knowledge of mining led him to leave Keene during that year to examine the mines of Ohio, Missouri, and other western states. In his travels he gathered much information concerning the Indians, and in 1822 he was appointed Indian agent, with a view to gaining such information for the use of the government. He established himself at Sault St. Marie, and married Jane Johnson—granddaughter of the noted Ojibway chief, Waboojeeg—who had been educated in Europe. In 1832 he led a government expedition up the Mississippi river and discovered its source in Itaska lake. In 1836 he negotiated a treaty with the Indian tribes on the upper lakes by which 16,000,000 acres of land were ceded to the United

States. Afterwards he was acting superintendent of Indian affairs and chief disbursing agent for the northern department; and through his influence many laws were passed for the protection and benefit of the Indians. He made a study of the Indian languages, and his published work on that subject was translated into French and other languages, and brought him a gold medal from the French Institute. Longfellow acknowledges that it was from Schoolcraft that he got his legends for his poem of Hiawatha and other works. He visited Europe and after his return, in 1847, congress authorized him to collate and edit all his information concerning the Indians. It was published by Lippincott in six large quarto volumes, extensively and handsomely illustrated by Capt. Seth Eastman, of the United States army—also a New Hampshire man—with a portrait of Schoolcraft. The government appropriated $30,000 per volume for the work. It was—and has ever since been—the standard work and the one upon which the government relied in all its affairs with the Indians. He was the author of thirty-one volumes in all, besides a mass of very valuable manuscript, preserved in the library of congress. The University of Geneva gave him the degree of LL. D. in 1846; and he was a member of a large number of ethnological, historical and other societies, in this country and in Europe.

In 1847, five years after the death of his first wife, he married Mary Howard, of Beaufort, S. C., an authoress, who assisted him in his later work, when he had lost the use of his hands by paralysis and was confined to his chair.

He died in Washington, Dec. 10, 1864, aged seventy-one. "His Indian Legends are charmingly written; and in his death a shining light in American literature has been extinguished." (Obituary in Washington paper.)

PELEG SPRAGUE.

Hon. Peleg Sprague, son of Noah and Mercy (Dexter) Sprague, was born in Rochester, Mass., in 1756; began life as a clerk in a store in Littleton, Mass.; was a bright student and entered Harvard college, but finished his course

at Dartmouth, in 1783; read law with Benjamin West, of Charlestown, N. H.; married Rosalinda Taylor of that town, granddaughter of Rev. Ezra Carpenter; represented Acworth, N. H., in the tentative legislature of Vermont in 1781; admitted to the bar in 1785; practiced in Winchendon and Fitchburg, Mass.; came to Keene in 1787; was selectman in 1789–90–91; soon took high rank in his profession; was county solicitor in 1794; representative to the legislature in 1797; was elected to congress in the same year; reëlected, 1799; resigned on account of ill health; died April 20, 1800, aged forty-three, and was buried with Masonic honors. He built the house on Main street, now Mrs. Laton Martin's (1900) and lived there. He also owned the Luther Nourse farm on Beech hill, and died in that house. His children were: Nathaniel, born in 1790; Elizabeth, born in 1792; David, born in 1794, who died young.

NATHANIEL SPRAGUE.

Rev. Nathaniel Sprague, D. D., son of Peleg, was born in 1790; graduated at Dartmouth; was superintendent of glass works in Keene, succeeding Schoolcraft; afterwards partner with Schoolcraft in the manufacture of glass bottles, decanters and similar ware on Marlboro street; captain of Keene Light Infantry in 1816; taught school in Keene, 1820; was ordained in the Episcopal ministry; had a parish at Royalton, Vt., afterwards at Drewsville, N. H., and still later at Claremont; received the honorary degree of D. D.; never married; died at Claremont in 1853. A memorial of him was placed in a window of St. James' church in Keene by his sister, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH SPRAGUE.

Miss Elizabeth Sprague, daughter of Peleg, was born in 1792; never married; was a woman of remarkable gifts and a brilliant conversationalist; for several years teacher of music and languages in Miss Fiske's school—for two years Miss Fiske's partner—and the piano she used was the first brought to Keene and still exists, well preserved, in the family of her cousin, Mr. George Carpenter of Swanzey, where she died in 1880.

JEREMIAH STILES.

Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, son of Jacob and Mary Stiles, was born in Lunenburg, Mass., Feb. 23, 1744; came to Keene while young; married, 1768, Mary, daughter of Eleazar Sanger of Keene; was lieutenant of the company that marched from Keene, April 21, 1775; was raised to captain upon the promotion of Capt. Wyman; commanded the company at the battle of Bunker Hill; was transferred with his company from Stark's regiment to that of Col. Paul D. Sargent of Massachusetts, and served his eight months' term of enlistment; discharged with his company at the close of that year. He was afterwards a member of the town committee of safety, a magistrate, a member of the state constitutional convention of 1778, nine years selectman, five years town clerk, nine years representative to the legislature, and held many other important offices. He was also a land surveyor, and a prominent Mason, and "he painted the portrait of David Nims, first town clerk of Keene." (William S. Briggs, his great-grandson.) (It is more probable, however, that it was his son who painted the portrait, as Jeremiah Stiles, Jr., was a portrait painter by vocation. He was thirty-two years old when David Nims died, and the portrait shows that the subject was of very great age). Capt. Stiles owned a farm and had his dwelling house on the north corner of Cross and Prison streets, and his office as magistrate was in the old wooden building that stood on what is now Elliot's corner. His children were: Elizabeth, married Eliphalet Briggs; Jeremiah, Joseph, John W., and Mary, born between 1769 and 1781. He died in 1800, aged fifty-six, and was buried with Masonic honors. His funeral—a public one at the meetinghouse—was largely attended and very impressive.

CORNELIUS STURTEVANT.

Cornelius Sturtevant, fifth in descent from Samuel, one of three brothers who came from Holland about 1640, was born in Plympton, Mass., in 1734; married Sarah Bosworth of Plympton; had six sons and one daughter, all born in Plympton between 1767 and 1777; came to Keene in 1779, and settled on a farm on the hills east of

the Ashuelot river, near the north line of the town; died in 1826, aged ninety-one. He was remarkable for the beauty of his handwriting—"said to be a little plainer than common print." His descendants to the seventh generation are still living in Keene.

His eldest son, Luke, married Abial, daughter of Nathaniel Kingsbury, and was killed in 1811, by the fall of a tree which he was cutting on the homestead.

CORNELIUS STURTEVANT, JR.

Cornelius Sturtevant, Jr., son of Cornelius and Sarah (Bosworth) Sturtevant, was born in 1771; taught school; learned the printer's trade of Henry Blake & Co.; bought their printing establishment, published the Rising Sun, and sold to John Prentiss in 1799; married, 1794, Sarah, daughter of Ichabod Fisher of Keene; had eight children, born between 1795 and 1806, and the only cradle Mrs. Sturtevant had for her babies was a slab of hemlock bark.

In 1813, Mr. Sturtevant enlisted in the Seventeenth United States Infantry, served through the war, remained in the service and died at Piketon, Ohio, in 1821, aged fifty. Mrs. Sturtevant died in Keene, in 1853, aged eighty-three.

CHARLES STURTEVANT.

Charles Sturtevant, son of Cornelius, Jr., was born in 1806; married Eliza Cummings, of Marlboro, N. H.; was register of deeds for Cheshire county for twelve years; died in Keene in 1867.

GEORGE W. STURTEVANT.

George W. Sturtevant, son of Cornelius, Jr., was born in 1799; married, 1823, Frances W., daughter of Jehiel Kilburn, of Keene. They lived together fifty-three years, had six children, and he survived his wife but three weeks, both dying in 1875. For fifty years he was the civil engineer of the town and of a large part of the county, and the number of maps and plans of real estate that he left is very large. He also held many offices of trust.

EDWARD EVERETT STURTEVANT.

Edward Everett Sturtevant, son of Cornelius, Jr., was born in Keene in 1826; was the first man in New Hampshire to enlist for the Civil war; and he opened the first recruiting office in the state, at Concord, in April, 1861. He went to the front as captain of Company I, First New Hampshire Volunteers, for three months; and again as captain of Company A, Fifth New Hampshire Volunteers for three years or the war; was promoted to major; was in all the battles of the Army of the Potomac in 1862—at times commanded his regiment by seniority;—was acting lieutenant colonel at the battle of Fredericksburg, Va., Dec. 13, 1862, where he was killed, and was buried in an unknown grave. He was a gallant soldier and an excellent commander of troops.

JOHN W. STURTEVANT.

Gen. John Warner Sturtevant, son of Luther and Isabella L. Sturtevant, was born in Keene, June 15, 1840. He was a descendant of Cornelius Sturtevant, the pioneer. From 1858 to 1862 he was a clerk in the bookstore of G. & G. H. Tilden. In 1862, he enlisted in the Union army (Company G, Fourteenth New Hampshire) and served through the war, rising to the rank of captain. He was for a time in the adjutant and provost marshal's office at Washington, and afterwards aide-de-camp on the staff of Brigadier General B. S. Roberts at Carrollton, La., and provost marshal of the district of Carrollton. In the battle of Opequan he was wounded in the arm and thigh.

At the close of the war he went to Beaufort, S. C., where he engaged in the cultivation of cotton and had charge of a general store until 1867, when he returned to Keene. In the same year he bought out George Tilden and became a partner in the store of G. H. Tilden & Co.

He was a member of John Sedgwick post, G. A. R., and of the Massachusetts commandery of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

In 1869 he was elected town clerk and held the office until the town became a city in 1874. He was a member of the board of education of Union district for nine years,

and moderator and clerk of the district for several years. In 1876, 1877 and 1885 he represented ward 3 in the legislature. In 1888 he was a member of a special commission to ascertain the value of the state's interest in the Concord and Boston & Maine railroads under the reserved charter rights.

When the Keene Light Guard battalion was formed in 1878, Capt. Sturtevant became captain of Company H and later was lieutenant colonel of the Second regiment of the New Hampshire National Guard. In 1879 he was made inspector general on the staff of Gov. Head.

In 1871 he married Clara, daughter of Charles Chase of Keene, by whom he had two sons, Charles C. and Clifford L.

He died Dec. 12, 1892.

THOMAS RUSSELL SULLIVAN.

Rev. Thomas Russell Sullivan, son of John Langdon Sullivan of Boston, and grandson of James Sullivan, who was governor of Massachusetts in 1808 and a younger brother of Gen. John Sullivan of the Revolutionary army, was born in Boston in 1799; graduated at Harvard in 1817; was ordained and settled over the Keene Congregational Society in 1825; married, 1826, Charlotte Caldwell, daughter of Francis Blake, of Worcester, Mass. His mother was Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Russell, the celebrated merchant of Boston, for whom she named her son. For several years while in Keene he edited the Liberal Preacher, a Unitarian publication printed in Keene. He resigned his pastorate in Keene in 1835, and afterwards opened a school in Boston for fitting lads for college.

He was a refined, scholarly man, courtly and dignified. At the centennial celebration in Keene in 1853, Rev. Dr. Barstow spoke of him as "the distinguished Thomas Russell Sullivan." He had six sons and two daughters. He died in Boston in 1862.

CLEMENT SUMNER.

Rev. Clement Sumner came from Cheshire, Ct.; graduated at Yale in 1758; was ordained at Keene, June 11, 1761. Before coming to Keene he had married Elizabeth,

daughter of Capt. Samuel Gilbert of Hebron, Ct., the principal proprietor of the township of Gilsum, N. H., though never a resident there. Their children were: Elizabeth and Anna (twins) born in Hebron, Feb. 22, 1760; Clarissa, born in Keene in 1762; Lucina, born in Keene in 1764; a son born in Keene in 1765, died an infant; Clement Augustus, born in Keene in 1767; Samuel Gilbert, born in Keene in 1769; William, born in Keene in 1771.

He remained pastor here for eleven years, and eighty-four members were added to the church during that time. The misconduct of his children, as was said, having caused some dissatisfaction, he was dismissed at his own request in 1772; but he spent his life in Keene, an excellent citizen, and a man of liberal views, for those times. He preached for a time at Thetford, Vt., and occasionally at other places, but was never settled again. In August, 1763, he was chosen proprietors' clerk of Gilsum—put down as "Mr. Sumner of Keen."

He died in Keene in 1795, in the sixty-fourth year of his age, and was buried in the old south yard. His widow died many years later, at West Swanzey. His sons settled in Keene and had children whose births are recorded in the town books.

JOHN SYMONDS.

John Symonds, was born in Hancock, N. H., in 1816; learned the tanner's trade; was engaged in that business at Marlow and East Sullivan; came to Keene in 1872, and established a large tannery one and one-fourth miles west of the Square, built a fine residence and other dwellings near it, and, with A. M. Bigelow & Co. of Boston, carried on an extensive and successful business. He married Caroline E. Robbins, of Nelson, N. H., but had no children. He died in 1885.

He bequeathed one-half of his estate—after the decease of his widow, who was to have the income of it during her life—to the city of Keene, "To build a public Library building and purchase land therefor, and to provide books and reading matter, and to take care of the same. And this fund may be used in connection with any city appropriations for the same purpose; and to pay for and

establish on said building, or some other in the city, a set of Chime Bells." When it was turned over to the city the bequest was valued at about $30,000; but a part of it was in property which depreciated; a part was turned into cash and deposited in the Five Cents Savings bank, a portion of which was lost; and within a few years there was a serious reduction in the available funds of the bequest.

GEORGE TILDEN.

George Tilden, son of Dea. Joseph Tilden of Marshfield, Mass., was born in Marshfield, April 21, 1802; came to Keene in 1817, and learned the bookbinder's trade of A. & H. Walker; began business for himself in 1825 in the basement of a building where the Cheshire National bank now stands, succeeding the Walkers and Thayers; removed to Gerould's block in 1835; published the North American Spelling Book, and other books; was chosen secretary and treasurer of the Cheshire Provident Institution for Savings in 1833, which office he held until 1880; was president of the institution for two years; took his son, G. H. Tilden, into partnership in 1853, who still carries on the business; continued in business until 1867, when he sold his interest, and in 1871 removed with the savings bank to the new bank block, on the corner of Roxbury street; was one of the founders of the Unitarian Society in Keene, and for sixty years was active in the church and Sunday school; took the circulating library of the Walkers and Thayers in 1824 and continued it for a long term; for more than forty years was a member of the school committee and board of education; and was town clerk five years and county treasurer three years.

In 1825, he married Harriet Wyman, daughter of Dr. Joseph Wheeler of Keene. They had one son and three daughters. He died Nov. 3, 1888.

JOHN TOWNS.

Capt. John Towns, son of Nehemiah—a descendant of William Towne, father of Rebecca (Towne) Nourse, who was hanged as a witch, at Salem, in 1692—was born in 1786; married Nancy, daughter of Samuel and granddaughter of Seth Heaton, one of the first three settlers of

Upper Ashuelot; was blacksmith, contractor and builder; had a shop with Aaron Davis just north of the present railroad station, afterwards on Marlboro street; built and lived in the brick house still standing next south of the Eagle Hotel; built a brick store where the Sentinel building now stands, the brick house on Marlboro street since owned by Madison Fairbanks, and later by Charles Wilson, and many other buildings; did a large business and was at one time one of the largest taxpayers in town. He had eight children, born between 1816 and 1835. His second daughter married Ralph J. Holt, of Keene. He died in 1858, aged seventy-two.

AMOS TWITCHELL.

Dr. Amos Twitchell, eminent surgeon and physician, was born in Dublin, N. H., in 1781, the seventh of nine children, "puny at his birth and fragile during infancy." His father, Capt. Samuel Twitchell, a farmer and miller, was one of the early settlers of Dublin, prominent in town affairs; a Revolutionary soldier, rising to the command of a company in Col. Enoch Hale's regiment in the Rhode Island campaign of 1778; afterwards a magistrate. His mother was a lineal descendant of the distinguished Rev. John Wilson, whom Cotton Mather described as "the father of the infant colonies of New England." In early youth Amos developed a fondness for books and study, and through his mother's influence was sent to the academy at New Ipswich. He graduated at Dartmouth in 1802, teaching school winters to enable him to pursue his course. He took high rank in college and immediately began the study of medicine and surgery under the eminent Dr. Nathan Smith, the projector and head of the medical school at Dartmouth and afterwards professor of surgery at Yale. Twitchell was an apt pupil, particularly fond of the study of anatomy and surgery, and soon became the assistant of Dr. Smith in his college work, and was the professor's chief dependence in procuring subjects for dissection, in which his energy and courage were brought into full play.

In 1808 he entered into practice with his brother-in-

law, Dr. David Carter of Marlboro, taking the surgical part of the practice. Sir Astley Cooper, of London, has the credit of first taking up the carotid artery, but Dr. Twitchell had performed that delicate and dangerous operation in 1807—nearly a year before Sir Astley's case—and saved his patient, performing the act by his own skill and knowledge, with only the help of a woman to tie the thread, without precedent or example from any learned authority That operation, with other skillful and inventive achievements, gave him a wide reputation and placed him in the front rank of surgeons. In 1810, he removed to Keene, where he quickly rose to the head of his profession, and continued his practice for forty years, greatly beloved and respected. He was offered professorships in several colleges; was for several years president of the New Hampshire Medical Society; was first president of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane; and held many other important positions and received many honorary degrees. In 1815, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. Josiah Goodhue, of Hanover, who became "a model of a physician's wife;" but they had no children. He was genial and cordial, quick at repartee, and was one of the great wits and brilliant social leaders of the town. He died in 1850.[1]

TIMOTHY TWITCHELL.

Capt. Timothy Twitchell, brother of Dr. Amos, was born in Dublin in 1783; went to sea in early youth; rose to the command of a merchant ship and made a successful voyage around the world; came to Keene; married, 1814, Susan, daughter of Daniel Watson, and joined Aaron Appleton, John Elliot, Daniel Watson and others in the manufacture of glass on Prison street; afterwards, with Watson and Henry R. Schoolcraft, started the manufacture of flint glass bottles and decanters on Marlboro street; removed to Petersburg, Va., where he remained six years, and thence to Pensacola, Fla., where for thirty years he was engaged in the mercantile and lumber business. In 1851 he returned to Keene, and died in 1867, aged

[1] His portrait, which hangs in city hall, and which Capt. Elbridge Clarke was foremost in procuring, was painted from an old daguerreotype by Wallace of Boston, and presented to the city by fifty subscribers, headed by J. F. & F. H. Whitcomb.

eighty-four. His widow died in 1871, aged seventy-eight. Their children were: Henry, born in Keene in 1815; Mary, born in Petersburg, Va., in 1818; George Brooks, born in Petersburg, Va., in 1820.

GEORGE B. TWITCHELL.

Dr. George B. Twitchell, son of Timothy and Susan (Watson) Twitchell, was born in Petersburg, Va., in 1820; studied medicine with Dr. Amos Twitchell of Keene, and at Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania; began practice in Keene in 1843 and continued until his death in 1897. He at once took a leading position in his profession and held it during his long career, doing most of the surgery in southwestern New Hampshire.

In 1862, he volunteered for the war and went to the front as surgeon of the Thirteenth New Hampshire Volunteers; was promoted in the spring of 1863 to surgeon of United States Volunteers, with the rank of major, serving under Gen. Grant at Vicksburg, but resigned after about one year's service on account of ill health.

He was president of the board of trustees of the New Hampshire insane asylum for many years, and a men's building recently added to that institution was named for him; and he was the most active agent in establishing and putting in working order the city hospital in Keene, after the gift of the buildings and grounds had been made by Mr. Elliot. It was he who initiated and carried through the city councils the project of adopting Col. Waring's system of sewerage for the city—doubtless the best known system to meet the conditions existing in Keene—and he was active in all enterprises for the benefit of the people, and the welfare of the community. The estimation in which he was held was illustrated by the gift, after he was seventy-five years old, of a gold-lined silver loving cup by about three hundred donors, mostly citizens of Keene. Dartmouth conferred on him the honorary degree of A. M.

Dr. Twitchell married, 1849, Susan Elizabeth, daughter of Gideon F. and Nancy P. Thayer, of Boston, by whom he had four daughters and two sons. Both the sons are physicians.

SAMUEL WADSWORTH.

Samuel Wadsworth came from Middletown, Ct., about 1760; married, 1762, Huldah, daughter of Seth Heaton, one of the first settlers of Upper Ashuelot. In 1770 he bought the original house lot No. 12—the old fort property—where Mr. Lemuel Hayward now lives, and two years later bought lots 10 and 11, north of it. He was a blacksmith and lived in one of the houses that were built inside the fort in connection with its walls, and had his shop within or near the fort. The stone foundations of his forge may still be found, just north of Mr. Hayward's house. He rose to the rank of major in the militia, but was one of the few tories in Keene at the time of the Revolution, though not one of the more obnoxious ones. After residing in the fort for some years he removed to Beech hill, where he died in 1782, aged forty-two.

He had nine children, four sons and five daughters, but only one son, the youngest, lived to manhood. His name was Samuel, born after his father's death, in 1783; married Betsey Lawrence, sister of Asa, of Roxbury, and John, of Keene; removed to Roxbury, near the outlet of Woodward's pond; was thrown from his horse and killed in February, 1835.

ABRAHAM WHEELER.

Col. Abraham Wheeler, son of Abraham and Hannah Wheeler of Keene, was born in 1743; married Mary; had seven children, born in Keene between 1769 and 1779; member of the militia company here in 1773, and his father was at the same time on the alarm list; was a private in Col. Ashley's regiment that marched to the relief of Ticonderoga in 1776; a private in the company of Capt. Davis Howlett of Keene, Ashley's regiment, that marched from Keene to oppose Burgoyne in June, 1777; afterwards a colonel in the militia. He owned the farm on Beech hill known as the Luther Nourse place and built that house (see sketch of Phineas Nourse) in 1773, and the barn in 1775—raised on the 17th of June. He removed from there to Ash Swamp and kept the tavern, and probably built the house, now known as the old Sawyer

tavern, two miles from the Square, where he was succeeded by his son-in-law, Josiah Sawyer. He died in 1814, aged seventy-one. His mother, Mrs. Hannah Wheeler, lived to the age of one hundred and three, and died Dec. 3, 1824.

WILLIAM P. WHEELER.

William P Wheeler, LL. D., son of Col. Nathaniel and Huldah (Whipple) Wheeler, was born in Croydon, N. H., in 1812; learned the harness making trade, but had a taste for the law and gained an education by his own efforts; attended the academies at Plainfield and Newport; read law with Phineas Handerson at Keene, and attended lectures at Harvard Law school; began practice in Keene in 1842; was county solicitor in 1845 and held that office ten years; took Francis A. Faulkner as junior partner, and the distinguished law firm of Wheeler & Faulkner was formed in the spring of 1850 and continued through Mr. Wheeler's lifetime. The two men were admirably adapted to each other as partners in the firm. Mr. Wheeler was one of the ablest advocates in the state, while Mr. Faulkner was one of the most skillful and efficient of attorneys in the preparation of cases and legal papers; and they were engaged in nearly every case of importance in the county, and in many outside of the county. Mr. Wheeler was also remarkably skillful and adroit in the examination of witnesses.

"If you should ask me who was the best jury advocate of all the lawyers I have ever heard at the New Hampshire bar, I should want time to consider. * * * * But if you ask me who was the best cross-examiner I have ever heard, I can answer that question at once. It was a man who was never unfair, never rough—a man who treated the witness with the same courtesy that he would exhibit towards a guest in his own house, and who nevertheless sifted the testimony thoroughly, and in such a way that the jury did not sympathize with the witness. That model cross-examiner was the former leader of the Cheshire bar, the late William P Wheeler." (Judge Jeremiah Smith.)

Mr. Wheeler was a man of sound judgment, excellent business capacity, genial in disposition and unassuming in manners—a man in whom every one felt that he had a

SUMNER WHEELER.

friend—and though not in public office filled many positions of trust and responsibility In 1851 he was offered a position on the bench of the court of common pleas, and later on that of the supreme court of New Hampshire, but he declined in both cases. He was nominated for congress in 1855 and 1857, but his party was in the minority and he could not be elected. He was one of the trustees of the New Hampshire Agricultural college, and valuable donations were made to it through his influence. He was a leader in the organization of St. James' (Episcopal) church, contributed largely for its support and was one of its wardens at the time of his decease. He was also president of the Cheshire Provident Institution for Savings. Dartmouth college conferred upon him the degree of A. M. in 1852, and that of LL. D. in 1872. In 1849 he married Sarah D. Moulton, of Randolph, Vt., and they had one daughter and one son.

He died in 1876.

SUMNER WHEELER.

Sumner Wheeler, son of Capt. David and Martha Frost (Perry) Wheeler, was born in Marlboro, N. H., in 1807; came to Keene at the age of fourteen; received a business training under his elder half brother, Justus Perry, became his partner and finally succeeded him in business. He bought the house on Main street previously used by Miss Fiske for her school (now Mrs. E. C. Thayer's); married, 1832, Catherine Vose of Boston; had three daughters and one son.

Mr. Wheeler was a man of the highest character and the strictest integrity, with a genial and kindly disposition. "His face was a benediction on the street." One of Keene's most brilliant daughters wrote of him: "If I were asked who had the largest and most all-sympathizing heart in all our Keene world I should say, Sumner Wheeler."

One day some gentlemen who had met in one of the banks were discussing affairs about town, and one of them made the trite remark that there was not a thoroughly honest man in Keene. Another offered to bet ten dollars that he could show them an honest man. "Leave out

Sumner Wheeler and I will take your bet," said the first speaker. "But Sumner Wheeler is the man I was betting on," was the reply.

He died in 1861, aged fifty-four.

ABIJAH WILDER.

Dea. Abijah Wilder, son of Andrew, a farmer of Lancaster, Mass., was born in 1752; came to Keene about 1774; "a mechanic of great celebrity in his day;" had a cabinet shop on the Walpole road, probably the present "old Sun tavern," and his dwelling, towards the last of his life was nearly opposite, a little below. In 1799 he secured a patent for the invention of bending sleigh runners by steaming the wood; and carried on a large business in the manufacture of sleighs and carriages.

He married, in 1774, Sarah, daughter of Gideon Ellis, of Keene. The children by that marriage were: Abigail, born in 1775, married Abijah Kingsbury; Sarah, born in 1780, married James Wells of Keene, lieutenant in the Eleventh United States Infantry in the war of 1812.

He married, second, in November, 1780, Martha Blake, of Wrentham, Mass. The children by that marriage were: Patty (Martha), born in 1781, never married, was superintendent of the Sabbath school for forty-three years; Abijah, born 1784.

He married, third, in 1785, Beulah Johnson. His children by that marriage were: Hepzibah, born in 1787, married Joseph Wheeler; Azel, born in 1788.

He married, fourth, in 1789, Tamar Wilder.

He was a deacon of the church for forty-eight years, leader of the choir for fifty years, and was an active, energetic citizen, prominent in town affairs and in all good enterprises. Dr. Barstow used to speak of him as "good Deacon Wilder."

He died in 1835, aged 83.

ABIJAH WILDER, JR.

Abijah Wilder, Jr., son of Dea. Abijah and Martha (Blake) Wilder, was born in 1784; married Rhoda Sanger, of Keene; had nine children born between 1816 and

1836. His daughter, Rhoda Jane, married Dr. Edward Pettengill, of Saxton's River, Vt.; his youngest daughter, Harriet P., married Elisha F. Lane, of Keene.

Like his father, he was an excellent mechanic and continued the business in his father's shop for several years, then built a large shop where the "Museum" building now stands, and carried on the cabinet and chair making business for many years. He also built the brick house, corner of Summer and Court streets, and the wooden one next north of the Baptist church—where he lived during the last years of his life and died in 1864, aged eighty.

"When he was fifteen years old the news came of the death of Washington. He climbed to the belfry and tolled the bell all through that cold winter night. A small brass lamp was bought by the family and kept burning all that night, then laid aside as a sacred relic and never used afterwards." (Family tradition.)

He was sexton of the town for many years and rang the bell at noon and at nine o'clock in the evening. He was one of the principal owners of the Phœnix Hotel, and being strong temperance men they attempted to run it as a temperance house, but it failed. (See sketch of A. & A. Wilder.)

AZEL WILDER.

Azel Wilder, son of Dea. Abijah and Beulah (Johnson) Wilder, was born in 1788; married Elvira, daughter of Capt. John Warner, of Keene; had ten children born between 1814 and 1832. His eldest daughter, Elvira, married Edward Poole, of Keene, jeweller; his second daughter, Hepsey, married Geo. H. Richards, of Keene; his third daughter, Maria, married William Wyman of Keene. Charles J. married Elmira Nims, of Keene, a lieutenant in the Civil war, killed before Richmond in 1864.

He also excelled as a mechanic, and invented and obtained a patent for a double geared wheelhead for spinning wool. For some years he was with his half brother, Abijah, in the shop of their father, but, later, Azel established himself in a turning shop a little west of Faulkner & Colony's sawmill, and made wheelheads and spinning wheels for both flax and wool for a long term of

years. He built the brick house on West street now the residence of Mr. George H. Richards, and died in 1860, aged seventy-two.

Mrs. Wilder was remarkable for her capability as a housekeeper and hostess, her genial hospitality, and her graceful efficiency in the management of public functions. One of her friends said of her after her decease that she would never be happy in Heaven unless she could get up an entertainment to buy David a new harp, or Elijah a new mantle. She was affectionately called "Aunt Azel Wilder."

A. & A. WILDER.

A. & A. Wilder—Abijah and Azel, half brothers—after dissolving their first connection, in their father's shop, in 1814, united under the above firm name, carried on a large business in real estate, and did much for the benefit of the town. In 1821 they bought of Capt. Joseph Dorr and his wife, heirs of the estate of Capt. Josiah Richardson, the tract of land lying north of the common, extending from the third New Hampshire turnpike (Court street) to Prison street, except a few lots near the corner of the common and as far north as the north side of Mechanic street. In 1828, to enlarge and improve the common and form our present Central square, they bought and removed the old horsesheds, gave the land (deeded for a nominal sum) for a new site for the meetinghouse, which stood on the common, and moved the edifice to its present position at their own expense. The same year they built "Wilders' building," now Ball's block. Many years afterwards, by a division of property, that building came into the hands of Azel alone. He sold it to Henry Pond, who added fourteen feet to the west end. The same firm also owned the tract of land—bought of the same Richardson estate—where Winter, Summer and Middle streets now are, through which those streets were laid out in 1832, and Centre street later. Out of that tract they gave the land for the Keene academy[1] in 1836, now occupied by the

[1] The deed was made by Abijah, and stands in his name, but by an exchange of property, and a conveyance to Abijah, Azel shared equally in the gift. (Mrs. Pettingill and other descendants of both families.)

Keene High school. Few have been so public spirited and done so much for the benefit of Keene as these three Wilders, Dea. Abijah and his two sons, Abijah and Azel.

PETER WILDER.

Peter Wilder, younger brother of Dea. Abijah, came to Keene in 1781; married Tamar Rice; had eleven children, born between 1781 and 1799. Like his elder brother he excelled as a mechanic, was a cabinet and chair maker and a wheelwright, and many of the fine old pieces of cabinet work and chairs now preserved as relics of the olden time were made by him at his shop in Federal Row. He died in 1814, aged eighty.

ABEL WILDER.

Abel Wilder, son of Samuel and Betsey (Joslin) Wilder, of Berlin, Mass., came to Keene towards the last of the eighteenth century; married Polly Mead; owned and occupied the fine house at the northeast corner of the common, already described, which he sold to Albe Cady in 1808; made spinning wheels and had cabinet and wheelwright shop in the rear of the stores on the east side of the common—for a time with Luther Holbrook—afterwards on what is now the north corner of Mechanic and Washington streets, and for many years kept the old wooden jail, which stood next on the south. In 1827, he built the house since known as the Handerson house (now F. K. Burnham's on Washington street), and later the brick one north of it, recently known as the Woodward house, and the brick one on the corner of Taylor street. His genial, optimistic nature gave him the distinction of being the "happiest man in town." He died in 1862, aged ninety-one. His son, Augustus T. Wilder, was for many years selectman and keeper of the old stone jail on Washington street.

JOSIAH WILLARD.

Col. Josiah Willard, son of Col. Josiah, the principal grantee of the township of Earlington or Arlington (Winchester) in 1733, surveyor of land in Upper Ashuelot in 1736 and later, and commissary and commander at Fort

Dummer in the old French and Indian war, 1744–1750, was born in Lunenburg, Mass., 1716; married Hannah Hubbard of Groton; major of militia in 1746, in command of a small body of troops at No. 4 (Charlestown); accepted a captain's commission in the forces raised for defence and commanded a company at Upper and Lower Ashuelot in 1747–9; was promoted to lieutenant colonel and succeeded his father in command of Fort Dummer in 1750; was the active agent in procuring from the legislature of New Hampshire a charter for the town of Winchester in 1753; was lieutenant colonel of the regiment of Col. Joseph Blanchard of Dunstable, N. H., in active service in the Crown Point expedition under Gen. Johnson in 1755; took up his residence in Winchester and represented that town in the legislature in 1768 to 1773; colonel commanding the Sixth regiment of New Hampshire militia in 1775, but, showing tory proclivities, his regiment was divided and he was left without a command. He had twelve children, two of whom graduated from Harvard college.

He died in Winchester in 1786.

JOSIAH WILLARD.

Major Josiah Willard, son of Col. and Hannah (Hubbard) Willard, was born in 1737; married, first, Thankful Taylor; second, Mary; third, Susanna, daughter of Col. Isaac Wyman. He was a sergeant under his father at Fort Dummer in 1753–4; afterwards took up his residence in Keene; by occupation was a saddler; was selectman in 1764–5–6–7, and was Keene's first representative to the legislature in 1768–70. Upon the organization of counties in 1771 he was appointed recorder of deeds for Cheshire county and held that office until 1776. He had risen to the rank of major in his father's regiment of militia, but was accused of toryism and when that regiment was divided he also was left without a position. His name stands at the head of the list of those in Keene who refused to sign the Association Test in 1776; but he was politic, and not a very obnoxious tory. He died in 1801, and was buried beside his three wives in the old burying ground at the lower end of Main street, one of the last

interments there. He had eight children, Lockhart, Grate (or Grata), Cynthia, Rebecca, Hannah, Josiah (died young), Josiah and Henry, born between 1763 and 1779.

LOCKHART WILLARD.

Lockhart Willard, son of (Major) Josiah and Thankful (Taylor) Willard, was born in Keene in 1763; married, 1783, Salome, daughter of Gen. James Reed of Keene; built the house now Mr. James Marsh's, on the south corner of Main and Marlboro streets. He was a prominent man in town; did much legal business as a magistrate; was eight years moderator of annual town meetings; thirteen years selectman; seven years representative to the legislature; and five years state senator. He had eight children born between 1784 and 1802. His eldest son was named Josiah, his second, Lockhart. He died in 1818, aged fifty-five.

JAMES WILSON.

Hon. James Wilson, of Scotch-Irish descent, was the son of Robert and Mary (Hodge) Wilson, and grandson of William, the first of the Wilsons to settle in Peterboro, N. H., who came from County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1737, when Robert was a lad; and little Mary Hodge came with her parents in the same ship. Robert joined the patriots in the Revolution—was a major under Stark at Bennington and Saratoga—and previous to that was with Wolfe on the Plains of Abraham and near him when he fell.

James was born in Peterboro in 1766; prepared for college at Phillips academy, Andover; graduated at Harvard in 1789 (John Quincy Adams said, "the best wrestler in his class"); read law with Judge Lincoln of Worcester; settled his father's estate in 1792; succeeded Hon. Jeremiah Smith in the practice of law in Peterboro; married Elizabeth Steele, by whom he had one son, James; represented Peterboro in the legislature several terms between 1803 and 1815; representative to congress in 1809–1811; married, second, Elizabeth Little, by whom he had two daughters—Elizabeth, married Guy Hunter, Sarah, married Francis L. Lee—and one son, Robert.

In 1815, he removed to Keene and bought the mansion

on Main street, then unfinished, now the city hospital, where he dispensed a graceful hospitality, and many delightful social functions were enjoyed at his house. He was an able lawyer, had a large practice in both Cheshire and Hillsboro counties, and as an advocate had few superiors in the state. Both Harvard and Dartmouth conferred upon him the degree of A. M. He died in 1839, respected and esteemed by all.

JAMES WILSON, JR.

Gen. James Wilson, son of James and Elizabeth (Steele) Wilson, was born in Peterboro in 1797; at the age of ten began his course successively at the academies at New Ipswich, Atkinson, and Phillips at Exeter. Impelled by his military spirit, he desired to enlist for the war then in progress, but failing to obtain the consent of his father, he worked for a time in the old north factory at Peterboro, but returned to his studies and entered Middlebury college in 1816, graduating with honors in 1820. He read law with his father at Keene and succeeded to his business, practicing much beyond the limits of the county; was appointed captain of the Keene Light Infantry in 1821; rose to the rank of colonel; resigned and reëntered the ranks as a private and rose to the rank of major general of militia. He was six feet and four inches in height, agile and athletic, had an unusual taste for military science and exercises, and was a born leader of men and a remarkably able and popular commander. There is no doubt that he did more to improve the condition of the militia of New Hampshire at that time than any other man in the state.

He represented Keene in the legislature during fourteen terms—the last two in 1871 and 1872, when he was seventy-four and seventy-five years old—and was speaker of the house in 1828. In 1835 and again in 1837, he was nominated for congress, and in 1838 and '39 he was the Whig candidate for governor, but the strength of the opposition party prevented his election in each case, as it had done after one term as speaker of the house. His great popularity would have secured his election as governor, however, but that his name was James Wilson, Jr., while some of the votes cast were for James Wilson.

JAMES WILSON, JR.

He was a natural orator, well read in history and political science. His sonorous voice, magnetic presence, and extraordinary command of language gave him a power over his audiences such as few have ever been able to wield. At a great dinner given to Daniel Webster in Faneuil hall, Boston, in 1838, where S. S. Prentiss of Mississippi, Robert C. Winthrop of Massachusetts and other distinguished orators spoke, the New York Commercial Advertiser pronounced Wilson's speech "one of the very best of the occasion." In the great political campaign of 1840, his services as a public speaker were called for from almost all parts of the country. He not only spoke in many places in New England—at Portland, Boston, Providence and many others—and in New York city, but he journeyed through New York state and into Pennsylvania, speaking at Albany, Rochester, Buffalo, Cleveland and all the large places; and he was regarded as the most effective speaker in the United States in that campaign. At Erie, Penn., it was estimated that 25,000 Whigs and 6,000 Loco Focos, as the Democrats were then called, had assembled. "A fleet of splendid steamers went up from Buffalo, where he had spoken the day before. The meeting was on the open bank overlooking the lake." Two stands were erected on opposite sides of the field, one for the Whigs, the other for the Loco Focos. "Wilson's fame as an unequalled orator had spread over the whole country," and before the president could formally open the meeting, "Wilson! Wilson! Wilson, from the Granite State!" was uproariously called for, and "he was greeted with deafening and prolonged applause." "Tens of thousands listened with breathless silence," often bursting into tumultuous applause. A strong speaker occupied the opposite stand, but Wilson's powerful voice rang out over the field and the crowd there soon began to diminish and almost completely dwindled away, while that at the Whig stand constantly increased until nearly the whole 30,000 were hanging upon Wilson's thrilling sentences. "The speaking continued till evening, when Gen. Wilson retired on board a steamer to sail for Buffalo, but the boat was detained. In the evening 8,000 people assembled and called for Wilson. The general was found in

his berth; but calling for his boots, he again mounted the stand," and gratified their desire to hear him. There is no question that his influence in carrying New England, New York and Pennsylvania for the Whigs was unparalleled.

After President Harrison's death Gen. Wilson was appointed surveyor general of the territories of Iowa and Wisconsin and had his office at Dubuque, but a change in the administration caused his removal in 1845. He was elected to congress in 1847 and reëlected in 1849, but resigned in 1850 and was appointed United States land commissioner to settle Spanish claims in California. He remained on the Pacific coast eleven years, settling those Spanish claims of extensive areas of land and practicing law, with large interests in mining. He returned East in April, 1861, just at the breaking out of the Civil war, and his personal friend, Abraham Lincoln, offered him a brigadier general's commission, which he very much desired to accept, but declined on account of his age and infirmities.

Gen. Wilson was a man of generous nature, large-hearted and broad-minded, with feelings as tender and delicate as a woman's. Often in his speeches he would be so touched with emotion that the tears would stream down his cheeks. Everybody loved and admired him.

At the bar "Wilson was ready, dashing, eloquent, seizing the strong points in his case and handling them in the most adroit and taking manner." (Bell's Bench and Bar of New Hampshire.) He almost invariably won his case before a jury. "On one circuit of the courts which Wilson and Joel Parker made together Wilson won every case. On their long ride home Parker was very taciturn and seemed much depressed. Wilson asked him why he was so reticent. 'Jim,' said Parker, 'I'm going home to sell my law books and go to work at something else. Its of no use for me to practice law. I have the law and the evidence all on my side, yet you win all the cases.' 'Nonsense,' said Wilson, 'go on with your law, you know ten times as much law as I do, but you fire over the heads of the jury and waste all your ammunition. Shoot lower and go on with your law.'" (Mrs. Fiske, from her father's own lips).

He married Mary Lord Richardson, of Montpelier, Vt., who died in 1848. His children were: Mary Elizabeth, born (in the old Ralston tavern) in 1826; married John Sherwood, a lawyer of New York; was Mrs. John Sherwood the distinguished authoress, and the prolific and brilliant writer over the initials "M. E. W. S." James Edward and William Robert, who both died young. Annie, born in 1832, married Francis S. Fiske of Keene, who was one of the first to volunteer at the breaking out of the Civil war—the first to make his offer of service in writing to Gov. Goodwin—lieutenant of Second New Hampshire Volunteers and brevet brigadier general of United States Volunteers, now United States commissioner for the district of Massachusetts. Charlotte Jean, born in 1835, married Frank L. Taintor, a banker of New York; she died in 1901. James Henry, born in 1837, graduated at Harvard, 1860; died in 1892. Daniel Webster, died at the age of five years.

Gen. Wilson died in May, 1881, and was buried with military and Masonic honors.

JOHN WOOD.

Hon. John Wood, son of Judge Ephraim Wood, of Concord, Mass., was born in 1778; came to Keene in 1799; joined Daniel Watson and James Mann in business; afterwards, for nearly forty years, "the financial and substantial member" of the firm of A. & T. Hall; last clerk of the proprietors of Keene; state senator, 1819–1823; one of the most active and enterprising men of Keene; never married. He died in 1856, aged seventy-eight.

JAMES WRIGHT.

"Lieut." James Wright, son of Nathaniel and Martha Wright, of Lancaster, Mass., was born in 1751; settled in Keene in 1769, on the present Geo. K. Wright farm; married Elizabeth Rugg, of Massachusetts, and, second, Mrs. Jemima P Blake. His children were: James, born in 1776, married, 1803, Lucy Nims, lived in Keene, died 1851; Betsey, born in 1779, married Amos Towne, of Littleton, N. H.; Martha, born in 1784, married a Mr. Wilder; Polly, born in 1788, never married; Ephraim, born in 1792 and married Sally Allen.

Lieut. Wright was a wealthy farmer, owned a large tract of land, and his descendants, to the fifth generation, still live on the same farm. He died in 1811, aged sixty-one.

EPHRAIM WRIGHT.

Ephraim Wright, son of Lieut. James, was born in 1776; married Sally Allen of Surry; lived on the homestead—the original house was burnt in 1817 and the present one was built the same year. His children were: George K., born in 1817, married Nancy E. Leonard; Henry, Elizabeth J., Lucius, Bradley E., Joseph, Luther K. and Charles (born 1835).

ISAAC WYMAN.

Col. Isaac Wyman, son of Joshua and Mary (Pollard) Wyman, of Woburn, Mass., was born in Woburn, Jan. 18, 1724; married, 1747, Sarah Wells; enlisted in December, 1747, as a private in the company of Capt. Elisha Hawley of Northampton, for service on the frontier; in 1748 was clerk in the company of Capt. Ephraim Williams, Jr., at Fort Massachusetts, and remained in that company until 1752, rising to the rank of sergeant; in 1753-4, sergeant in Capt. Elisha Chapin's company at the same fort; in 1755, lieutenant in Capt. Ephraim Williams's company; on Capt. Williams's[1] promotion to major, Lieut. Wyman was made captain and succeeded to the command of the company and of the fort; in 1756 made a clear and succinct report to the governor and council of the decayed condition of the fort; in 1757, had a company of seventy-four men at Fort Massachusetts and repaired the fort; in 1758-60, was clearing roads, building bridges and hauling stores from Stockbridge, and was paid for travel from Deerfield to the fort, and from the fort to Boston and return, and other items, as appears by receipts signed by him; in 1760, was still in command at Fort Massachusetts, Stockbridge, West Hoosick and other places.

He came to Keene in 1761 or very early in 1762 (his little daughter Mary died here in May, and his daughter

[1] The founder of Williams college.

Sybil was born here in September, 1762), and bought house-lots and lands which, with his previous purchases, made him the owner of nearly three thousand acres in the town. He built, in that year (1762), what was then, doubtless, the finest house in town—still known as the "old Wyman tavern," 339 Main street, and kept it as a public house for nearly thirty years. It was widely known as "ye excellent inn of Capt. Wyman in Keene." As stated elsewhere, the first meeting of the trustees of Dartmouth college was held in the northeast room of that house, Oct. 22, 1770. (See pages 155-6.) It was the noted hostlery of this section in 1775, when, on the 20th of April, a horseman brought the tidings of the slaughter of Americans at Lexington on the 19th; and Capt. Wyman marched for the scene of action at the head of his company at sunrise on the 21st. He was chosen lieutenant colonel of Stark's regiment; was in the battle of Bunker Hill; was promoted to colonel of a regiment in the northern army, June 20, 1776, commanded it through the campaign and was discharged with his regiment in December of that year.

He held many important town offices; was a delegate to the convention in January, 1775, for the choice of delegates to the Continental congress; was representative to the general assembly in February of the same year; was one of the principal magistrates of the county and one of the three appointed in 1778 to administer the oath of office to the judges of the court in Cheshire county. He died March 31, 1792; his widow, Sarah, died in 1807, aged seventy-five. His children before coming to Keene were: Isaac, born in 1755, married Lucretia Hammond; Sarah, married Dr. Calvin Frink, of Swanzey; Susanna, married Maj. Josiah Willard (third wife); Mary, died in May, 1762; William, died in November, 1765. His children after coming to Keene were: Sybil, born Sept. 3, 1762, died 1765; Mary (2d), born in 1764; Elijah, born in 1766, married 1791, Keziah, daughter of Dea. Henry Ellis; Joshua, born in 1769, married, 1790, Hannah Willard of Keene; Roxanna, born in 1771, married William Ward Blake, who succeeded Col. Wyman in the old tavern; William, born in February, 1775.

ISAAC WYMAN.

Capt. Isaac Wyman, son of Col. Isaac and Sarah (Wells) Wyman, was born in 1755; married, 1777, Lucretia Hammond, of Swanzey, and second, in 1812, Louisa Bishop; lived on the farm and built the house, about 1800, in west part, still owned by his descendants; a Revolutionary soldier; captain in the militia; died in 1835. He had eleven children born between 1778 and 1802, all by his first wife. His youngest son, Charles, remained on the homestead.

JOSHUA WYMAN.

Joshua Wyman, fourth son of Col. Isaac, was born in 1769; married Hannah, daughter of Maj. Josiah Willard, 1790; was a merchant, the first to occupy the brick store where the Sentinel building now stands; was captain of Keene Light Infantry; died in 1796.

WILLIAM WYMAN.

William Wyman, fifth son of Col. Isaac, was born Feb. 20, 1775; was a sea captain; married Mary Fowle, daughter of Maj. Josiah Capen, of Watertown, Mass. He returned to Keene in 1804–5 with a fortune; went into trade with Daniel Chapman; built the brick store now the south end of Eagle Hotel, the present city hospital for a residence—then the finest in town—and several other buildings; owned much real estate in Keene; died in 1811, leaving two daughters in care of Daniel Bradford, executor of his estate.

Town Officers.

In the history of the town of Keene the most important officers elected by the town were the selectmen, the representatives to the legislature, the moderators, the town clerks and the treasurers. Below will be found lists of those officers, with the dates of their election:

SELECTMEN.

1753. Ephraim Dorman, Michael Metcalf, William Smeed.
1754. Dea. David Foster, Ephraim Dorman, Michael Metcalf, David Nims, Nathan Blake.
1755. Capt. Metcalf, David Nims, Dea. David Foster, Lieut. Ephraim Dorman, Ensign William Smeed.
1756. Capt. Michael Metcalf, Lieut. Ephraim Dorman, Ensign William Smeed, David Nims, Eleazar Sanger.
1757. Lieut. Seth Heaton, Dea. David Foster, Ebenezer Nims, Gideon Ellis, Ebenezer Clark.
1758. Lieut. Seth Heaton, David Nims, Ensign William Smeed, Ebenezer Nims, Sergt. Gideon Ellis.
1759. David Nims, Lieut. Seth Heaton, Gideon Ellis.
1760. David Foster, Eleazar Sanger, John French, Lieut. Seth Heaton, Isaac Clark.
1761. Thomas Frink, Jonah French, Eleazar Sanger, Obadiah Blake, Ephraim Dorman.
1762. Dea. David Foster, Ephraim Dorman, Benjamin Hall, Jonah French, Dr. Obadiah Blake.
1763. Capt. Isaac Wyman, Jonah French, Benjamin Hall, Gideon Ellis, Thomas Baker.
1764. Benjamin Hall, Josiah Willard, Capt. Isaac Wyman.
1765. Capt. Isaac Wyman, Simeon Clark, Michael Metcalf.
1766. Capt. Isaac Wyman, Simeon Clark, Josiah Willard.
1767. Benjamin Hall, Josiah Willard, David Nims.
1768. David Nims, Benjamin Hall, Michael Metcalf.
1769. Benjamin Hall, David Nims, Abraham Wheeler.
1770. Timothy Ellis, Thomas Baker, Simeon Clark.
1771. David Nims, Benjamin Hall, Thomas Baker.
1772. Capt. Ephraim Dorman, Maj. Josiah Willard, Thomas Baker, Capt. Isaac Wyman, Elijah Williams.
1773. Abraham Wheeler, David Nims, Benjamin Hall, Seth Heaton, Eliphalet Briggs, Jr.
1774. Benjamin Hall, Elijah Williams, Thomas Baker, Timothy Ellis, Josiah Richardson.

1775. Capt. Isaac Wyman, Capt. Ephraim Dorman, Thomas Baker, Benjamin Osgood, Abraham Wheeler.
1776. Col. Isaac Wyman, Capt. Eliphalet Briggs, Lieut. Josiah Richardson, Daniel Kingsbury, Joseph Blake.
1777. Col. Isaac Wyman, Maj. Timothy Ellis, Thomas Baker, Daniel Kingsbury, Benjamin Osgood.
1778. Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, Simeon Clark, Josiah Richardson, Jabez Fisher, Silas Cooke.
1779. Thomas Baker, Dan Guild, Davis Howlett, Timothy Ellis, John Houghton.
1780. Davis Howlett, Dan Guild, Reuben Partridge, John Houghton, Daniel Kingsbury.
1781. William Banks, Joseph Willson, Daniel Newcomb, Jotham Metcalf, Joseph Blake.
1782. William Banks, Joseph Willson, Abijah Wilder, Daniel Kingsbury, John Houghton.
1783. Josiah Richardson, David Nims, Jr., Nathan Blake, Jr, Jonathan Bailey, Timothy Ellis.
1784. Benjamin Hall, Jeremiah Stiles, David Nims, Jr., Daniel Kingsbury, Benjamin Balch.
1785. Benjamin Hall, Jeremiah Stiles, Lieut. Partridge, Daniel Kingsbury, Benjamin Balch.
1786. Benjamin Hall, Jeremiah Stiles, Daniel Kingsbury.
1787. Asa Dunbar, Nathan Blake, John Houghton. Asa Dunbar died Jan. 22 and Jeremiah Stiles was chosen.
1788. Daniel Newcomb, Daniel Kingsbury, Benjamin Osgood, Josiah Richardson, Jotham Metcalf.
1789. Jeremiah Stiles, Abel Blake, Ebenezer Robbins, Peleg Sprague, Daniel Kingsbury.
1790. Jeremiah Stiles, Peleg Sprague, Daniel Kingsbury.
1791. Jeremiah Stiles, Peleg Sprague, Abijah Wilder, Ebenezer Robbins, David Foster.
1792. Jeremiah Stiles, Noah Cooke, Daniel Kingsbury.
1793. Lockhart Willard, Daniel Kingsbury, David Wilson.
1794. Elijah Dunbar, Abijah Wilder, Ebenezer Robbins.
1795. Daniel Kingsbury, Nathan Blake, Jr., Thomas Baker, Jr.
1796. Thaddeus Maccarty, Abel Blake, Ebenezer Robbins.
1797. Thaddeus Maccarty, Lockhart Willard, Abel Blake.
1798. Lockhart Willard, Ebenezer Robbins, Abel Blake.
1799. Lockhart Willard, Abel Blake, Ebenezer Robbins.
1800. Lockhart Willard, Abel Blake, Ebenezer Robbins.
1801. Abel Blake, Thaddeus Maccarty, Eli Blake.
1802. Lockhart Willard, Eli Blake, Abel Blake.
1803. Noah Cooke, David Forbes, Eli Blake.
1804. Elijah Dunbar, Joel Kingsbury, Lockhart Willard.
1805. David Wilson, Joel Kingsbury, Eli Blake.
1806. David Wilson, Eli Blake, Joel Kingsbury.
1807. Lockhart Willard, Samuel Dinsmoor, Silas Perry.
1808. Josiah Willard, Joel Kingsbury, Aaron Hall, Jr.
1809. Josiah Willard, Joel Kingsbury, Aaron Hall, Jr.
1810. Lockhart Willard, Eli Blake, Albe Cady.

1811. Lockhart Willard, Eli Blake, Phineas Cooke.
1812. Lockhart Willard, Daniel Bradford, Albe Cady.
1813. Elijah Dunbar, Daniel Bradford, Albe Cady.
1814. Lockhart Willard, Joel Kingsbury, Albe Cady.
1815. Lockhart Willard, Joel Kingsbury, Isaac Parker.
1816. John Wood, Joel Kingsbury, Eli Blake.
1817. John Wood, Elijah Dunbar, Samuel Bassett.
1818. John Wood, Samuel Bassett, Elijah Dunbar.
1819. John Wood, Samuel Bassett, Foster Alexander.
1820. Foster Alexander, Daniel Bradford, Eliphalet Briggs, Jr.
1821. Zebadiah Kise, Henry Goodnow, Eliphalet Briggs, Jr.
1822. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr., Henry Goodnow, Azel Wilder.
1823. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr., Henry Goodnow, Azel Wilder.
1824. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr., Henry Goodnow, Azel Wilder.
1825. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr., Henry Goodnow, Henry Coolidge.
1826. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr., Henry Goodnow, Henry Coolidge.
1827. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr., Henry Goodnow, Henry Coolidge.
1828. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr., Henry Goodnow, Henry Coolidge.
1829. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr., Henry Goodnow, Henry Coolidge.
1830. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr., Henry Coolidge, Thomas Thompson.
1831. Thomas Thompson, Henry Goodnow, Carlos Blake.
1832. Thomas Thompson, Carlos Blake, Samuel Wood, Jr.
1833. Thomas Thompson, Carlos Blake, Samuel Wood, Jr.
1834. Samuel Wood, Jr., Sumner Carpenter, Aaron Thompson.
1835. Samuel Wood, Jr., Sumner Carpenter, Aaron Thompson.
1836. Aaron Thompson, Henry Goodnow, George W. Sturtevant.
1837. George W. Sturtevant, Josiah Sawyer, Oliver Holman.
1838. George W. Sturtevant, Gideon Clark, Samuel Wood, Jr.
1839. George W. Sturtevant, Gideon Clark, Samuel Wood, Jr.
1840. Samuel Wood, Jr., Charles Chase, James Buffum.
1841. James Buffum, Charles Chase, Abel Blake.
1842. James Buffum, Charles Chase, Abel Blake.
1843. James Buffum, Charles Chase, John H. Fuller.
1844. Charles Chase, Samuel Towns, 2d, Loring C. Frost.
1845. Joshua Wyman, Josiah Sawyer, Luther Nurse.
1846. Joshua Wyman, Josiah Sawyer, Kendall Crossfield.
1847. Azel Wilder, George W. Sturtevant, Thomas C. Thompson.
1848. Kendall Crossfield, George K. Wright, Joshua Wyman.
1849. Samuel Wood, Caleb Carpenter, Lanman Nims.
1850. Josiah Sawyer, George W. Sturtevant, Joshua Wyman.
1851. Thomas Thompson, Eugene S. Ellis, Arba Kidder.
1852. Arba Kidder, Eugene S. Ellis, Abijah Metcalf.
1853. Arba Kidder, John A. Draper, Eugene S. Ellis.
1854. William S. Briggs, Eugene S. Ellis, Ebenezer Clark.
1855. Ebenezer Clark, Nelson N. Sawyer, William P. Cochran.
1856. Nelson N. Sawyer, William P. Cochran (resigned and Ebenezer Clark elected Nov. 4), John Clark.
1857. Ebenezer Clark, Arba Kidder, John Clark.

1858. Ebenezer Clark, Kendall Crossfield, Charles N. Wilder.
1859. Ashley Jones, Charles N. Wilder, Kendall Crossfield.
1860. Ebenezer Clark, Nelson N. Sawyer, Elias Joslin.
1861. Nelson N. Sawyer, George G. Dort, Chester Nims.
1862. Nelson N. Sawyer, George G. Dort, Chester Nims.
1863. Augustus T. Wilder, Chester Nims, Thomas C. Rand.
1864. Augustus T. Wilder, Chester Nims, Thomas C. Rand.
1865. Augustus T. Wilder, Chester Nims, Thomas C. Rand.
1866. Chester Nims, Samuel Woodward, William P. Abbott.
1867. Chester Nims, Samuel Woodward, William P. Abbott.
1868. Chester Nims, Edwin R. Locke, Stephen Barker.
1869. Chester Nims, George H. Gilbert, Charles Keyes.
1870. Chester Nims, George H. Gilbert, Charles Keyes.
1871. George H. Gilbert, Lanman Nims, Charles Keyes.
1872. William P. Cochran, Luther P. Alden, Samuel O. Gates.
1873. Luther P. Alden, Samuel O. Gates, William P. Cochran.
1874. (None chosen.)

REPRESENTATIVES.

1768. Josiah Willard.
1769. Josiah Willard held over but did not take his seat.
1770. Josiah Willard.
1771. Benjamin Hall.
1772. Benjamin Hall.
1773. Benjamin Hall.
1774. Benjamin Hall.
1775. Isaac Wyman.
1775. Timothy Ellis delegate to the Provincial congress at Exeter; chosen in April, and again in December.
1776. Timothy Ellis.
1777. Timothy Ellis.
1778. Timothy Ellis.
1779. Josiah Richardson.
1780. Josiah Richardson.
1781. Josiah Richardson.
1782. Daniel Kingsbury.
1783.
1784. Benjamin Hall.
1785. Benjamin Hall.
1786. Jeremiah Stiles.
1787. Benjamin Hall.
1788. Josiah Richardson.
1789. Josiah Richardson.
1790. Jeremiah Stiles.
1791. Jeremiah Stiles.
1792. Jeremiah Stiles.
1793. Jeremiah Stiles.
1794. In March, Jeremiah Stiles. Aug. 25, Daniel Newcomb.
1795. In March, Daniel Newcomb. Elected senator, resigned. Sept. 28, Jeremiah Stiles chosen.
1796. Josiah Richardson.
1797. Peleg Sprague.
1798. Lockhart Willard.
1799. Lockhart Willard.
1800. Lockhart Willard.
1801. Lockhart Willard.
1802. Lockhart Willard.
1803. David Forbes.
1804. Lockhart Willard.
1805. Lockhart Willard.
1806. Elijah Dunbar.
1807. Samuel Dinsmoor.
1808. Elijah Dunbar.
1809. Albe Cady.
1810. Elijah Dunbar.
1811. Albe Cady.
1812. John Wood.
1813. John Wood.
1814. Albe Cady.
1815. John Wood.
1816. John Wood.
1817. John Wood.

1818. Dan Hough.
1819. Dan Hough.
1820. John Prentiss.
1821. John Wood.
1822. Foster Alexander.
1823. Salma Hale.
1824. Joel Parker.
1825. Joel Parker, James Wilson, Jr.
1826. Joel Parker, James Wilson, Jr.
1827. James Wilson, Jr., Henry Coolidge.
1828. Salma Hale, James Wilson, Jr.
1829. James Wilson, Jr., Aaron Hall.
1830. James Wilson, Jr., Aaron Hall.
1831. James Wilson, Jr., Eliphalet Briggs.
1832. James Wilson, Jr., Stephen Harrington.
1833. Azel Wilder, Henry Goodnow.
1834. Thomas M. Edwards, James Wilson, Jr.
1835. Henry Coolidge, Thomas Thompson.
1836. Thomas M. Edwards, Thomas Thompson.
1837. James Wilson, Jr., Oliver Heaton.
1838. Thomas M. Edwards, Levi Chamberlain.
1839. Thomas M. Edwards, Benjamin F. Adams.
1840. James Wilson, Levi Chamberlain.
1841. Sumner Wheeler, Aaron Davis.
1842. Aaron Davis, Isaac Sturtevant.
1843. Isaac Sturtevant, Phineas Handerson.
1844. Salma Hale, Levi Chamberlain.
1845. Thomas M. Edwards, Sumner Wheeler.
1846. James Wilson, Isaac Sturtevant.
1847. James Wilson, Isaac Sturtevant, Luther Nurse.
1848. Levi Chamberlain, Isaac Sturtevant, Luther Nurse.
1849. Phineas Handerson, Sumner Wheeler, Arba Kidder.
1850. Thomas M. Edwards, Arba Kidder, John W. Binney.
1851. John W. Binney, Francis A. Faulkner, William S. Hutchins.
1852. Levi Chamberlain, William S. Hutchins, Francis A. Faulkner.
1853. Stewart Hastings, Selden F. White, Jehiel Wilson.
1854. Stewart Hastings, Jehiel Wilson, John W. Binney.
1855. Thomas M. Edwards, Rufus Gates, Caleb Carpenter.
1856. Thomas M. Edwards, Rufus Gates, Caleb Carpenter.
1857. Francis S. Fiske, D. W. Buckminster, Ephraim Foster, Daniel Buss.
1858. Francis S. Fiske, D. W. Buckminster, Ephraim Foster, Daniel Buss.
1859. Francis A. Faulkner, Caleb T. Buffum, Edward Joslin, Addison Stone.
1860. Francis A. Faulkner, Caleb T. Buffum, Addison Stone, George Holmes.
1861. Levi Chamberlain, George Holmes, Edward Edwards, Charles Chase.
1862. George H. Richards, Edward Edwards, William S. Briggs, Henry Pond.
1863. George H. Richards, William S. Briggs, John I. Nestle, William P. Abbott.
1864. William P. Abbott, Farnum F. Lane, Henry Willard, Stephen Barker, Samuel O. Gates.
1865. Farnum F. Lane, Henry Willard, Stephen Barker, Samuel O. Gates, Edward Gustine.
1866. Zedekiah S. Barstow, Samuel W. Hale, S. G. Griffin, Miles S. Buckminster, Pembroke Fisher.
1867. Zedekiah S. Barstow, Samuel W. Hale, S. G. Griffin, Miles S. Buckminster, Pembroke Fisher.

1868. S. G. Griffin, John Humphrey, Solon S. Wilkinson, Robert Wilson, Charles Bridgman.
1869. John Humphrey, Solon S. Wilkinson, Robert Wilson, Charles Bridgman, Solon A. Carter, William French.
1870. James Wilson, Solon A. Carter, William French, Joseph R. Beal, Kendall C. Scott, William P Cochran.
1871. James Wilson, Joseph R. Beal, Kendall C. Scott, William P. Cochran, Charles S. Faulkner, Edward Farrar.
1872. Charles S. Faulkner, Edward Farrar, Thomas E. Hatch, Samuel Woodward, Allen Giffin, Ira F. Prouty.
1873. Samuel Woodward, Allen Giffin, Ira F. Prouty, Asa Fairbanks, George A. Wheelock, Daniel K. Healey, Stephen D. Osborne.
1874. George A. Wheelock, Stephen D. Osborne, Daniel K. Healey, Hiram H. Stone, George K. Wright, George H. Tilden, Charles Shrigley.

MODERATORS.

1753. Benjamin Bellows.
1754. Michael Metcalf.
1755. Michael Metcalf.
1756. Michael Metcalf.
1757. Ebenezer Clark.
1758. Ebenezer Clark.
1759. Dea. David Foster.
1760. Ebenezer Clark.
1761. (No record.)
1762. Dea. David Foster.
1763. David Nims.
1764. Dr. Thomas Frink.
1765. Dr. Thomas Frink.
1766. Capt. Issac Wyman.
1767. Josiah Willard.
1768. David Nims.
1769. David Nims.
1770. David Nims.
1771. David Nims.
1772. Thomas Frink.
1773. Thomas Frink.
1774. Thomas Frink.
1775. Thomas Frink.
1776. David Nims.
1777. Thomas Frink.
1778. Col. Isaac Wyman.
1779. Timothy Ellis.
1780. Thomas Frink.
1781. Daniel Kingsbury.
1782. Daniel Kingsbury.
1783. Daniel Kingsbury.
1784. Daniel Kingsbury.
1785. Daniel Kingsbury.
1786. Daniel Kingsbury.
1787. Benjamin Hall.
1788. Daniel Kingsbury.
1789. Daniel Newcomb.
1790. Daniel Kingsbury.
1791. Peleg Sprague.
1792. Daniel Kingsbury.
1793. Noah Cooke.
1794. Daniel Kingsbury.
1795. Daniel Kingsbury.
1796. Peleg Sprague.
1797. Peleg Sprague.
1798. Daniel Kingsbury.
1799. Daniel Kingsbury.
1800. Daniel Kingsbury.
1801. Daniel Kingsbury.
1802. Daniel Newcomb.
1803. Daniel Kingsbury.
1804. Daniel Kingsbury.
1805. Lockhart Willard.
1806. Lockhart Willard.
1807. Lockhart Willard.
1808. Lockhart Willard.
1809. Lockhart Willard.
1810. Lockhart Willard.
1811. Foster Alexander.
1812. Lockhart Willard.
1813. Foster Alexander.
1814. Lockhart Willard.
1815. John Prentiss.
1816. Foster Alexander.
1817. Foster Alexander.
1818. Foster Alexander.

1819. John Prentiss.
1820. James Wilson.
1821. Joel Parker.
1822. James Wilson, Jr.
1823. Joel Parker.
1824. Joel Parker.
1825. Joel Parker.
1826. Joel Parker.
1827. Joel Parker.
1828. Joel Parker.
1829. Joel Parker.
1830. Joel Parker.
1831. James Wilson, Jr.
1832. Thomas M. Edwards.
1833. James Wilson, Jr.
1834. Thomas M. Edwards.
1835. Henry Coolidge.
1836. Thomas M. Edwards.
1837. Thomas M. Edwards.
1838. Thomas M. Edwards.
1839. Thomas M. Edwards.
1840. Thomas M. Edwards.
1841. Thomas M. Edwards.
1842. Levi Chamberlain.
1843. Thomas M. Edwards.
1844. Thomas M. Edwards.
1845. Thomas M. Edwards.
1846. Levi Chamberlain.
1847. Levi Chamberlain.
1848. Levi Chamberlain.
1849. Thomas M. Edwards.
1850. Levi Chamberlain.
1851. Thomas M. Edwards.
1852. Thomas M. Edwards.
1853. Levi Chamberlain.
1854. Levi Chamberlain.
1855. George B. Twitchell.
1856. George B. Twitchell.
1857. Francis A. Faulkner.
1858. Francis A. Faulkner.
1859. Francis A. Faulkner.
1860. Francis A. Faulkner.
1861. George B. Twitchell.
1862. George B. Twitchell.
1863. Francis A. Faulkner.
1864. George B. Twitchell.
1865. Francis A. Faulkner.
1866. Francis A. Faulkner.
1867. Francis A. Faulkner.
1868. Francis A. Faulkner.
1869. George B. Twitchell.
1870. Francis A. Faulkner.
1871. Francis A. Faulkner.
1872. Francis A. Faulkner.
1873. Francis A. Faulkner.
1874. George B. Twitchell.

TOWN CLERKS.

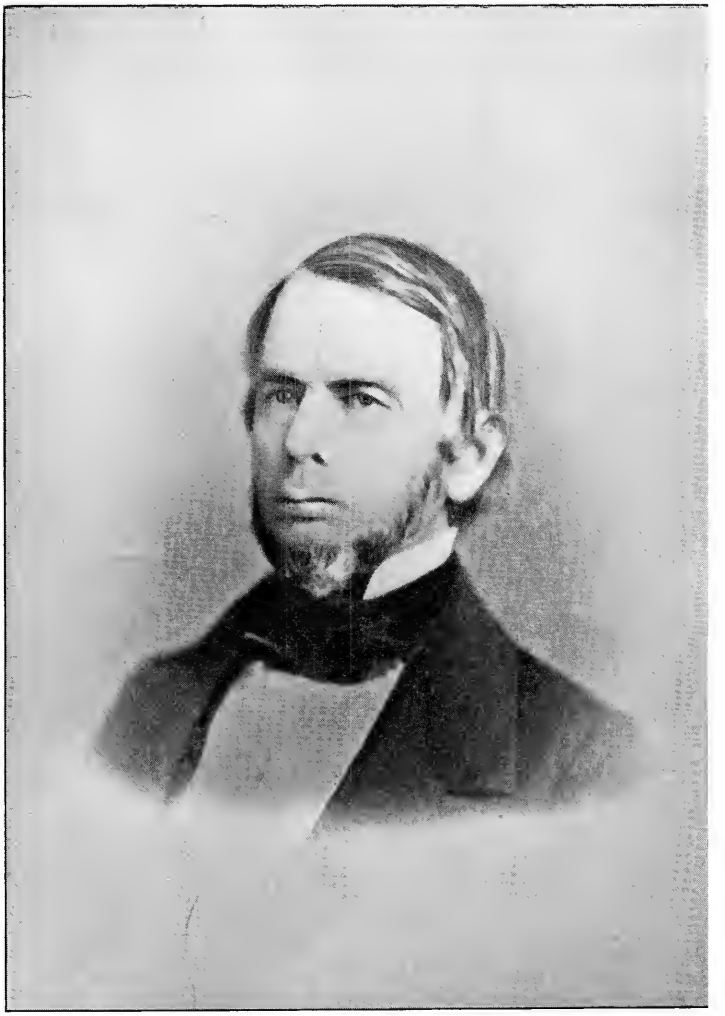
1753. David Nims.
1754. David Nims.
1755. David Nims.
1756. David Nims.
1757. David Nims.
1758. David Nims.
1759. David Nims.
1760. David Foster.
1761. Ephraim Dorman.
1762. Ephraim Dorman.
1763. David Nims.
1764. David Nims.
1765. David Nims.
1766. Ichabod Fisher.
1767. Ichabod Fisher.
1768. Ichabod Fisher.
1769. Ichabod Fisher.
1770. Ichabod Fisher.
1771. Ichabod Fisher.
1772. Ichabod Fisher.
1773. Ichabod Fisher.
1774. Ichabod Fisher.
1775. Ichabod Fisher.
1776. Ichabod Fisher.
1777. Ichabod Fisher.
1778. Ichabod Fisher.
1779. Ichabod Fisher.
1780. Ichabod Fisher.
1781. Ichabod Fisher.
1782. Ichabod Fisher.
1783. Ichabod Fisher.
1784. Ichabod Fisher.
1785. Ichabod Fisher.
1786. Asa Dunbar.

1787. Asa Dunbar. He died June 22 and Jeremiah Stiles was chosen.
1788. Jeremiah Stiles.
1789. Jeremiah Stiles.
1790. Jeremiah Stiles.
1791. Jeremiah Stiles. Resigned in August and Micah Lawrence chosen.
1792. Micah Lawrence.
1793. Micah Lawrence.
1794. Lockhart Willard.
1795. Noah Cooke.
1796. Noah Cooke.
1797. Noah Cooke.
1798. Noah Cooke.
1799. Noah Cooke.
1800. Noah Cooke.
1801. Noah Cooke.
1802. Noah Cooke.
1803. Noah Cooke.
1804. Noah Cooke.
1805. Andrew Bradford.
1806. Andrew Bradford.
1807. John Prentiss.
1808. John Prentiss.
1809. John Prentiss.
1810. Albe Cady.
1811. Albe Cady.
1812. Albe Cady.
1813. Albe Cady.
1814. Albe Cady.
1815. Elijah Parker.
1816. Elijah Parker.
1817. Elijah Parker.
1818. Elijah Parker.
1819. Elijah Parker.
1820. Foster Alexander.
1821. Foster Alexander.
1822. Foster Alexander.
1823. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr.
1824. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr.
1825. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr.
1826. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr.
1827. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr.
1828. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr.
1829. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr.
1830. Eliphalet Briggs, Jr.
1831. George Tilden.
1832. George Tilden.
1833. George Tilden.
1834. George Tilden.
1835. George W. Sturtevant.
1836. George W. Sturtevant.
1837. George W. Sturtevant.
1838. George W. Sturtevant.
1839. George W. Sturtevant.
1840. Selden F. White.
1841. Albert Godfrey.
1842. Albert Godfrey.
1843. Albert Godfrey.
1844. Albert Godfrey.
1845. Albert Godfrey.
1846. Albert Godfrey.
1847. Albert Godfrey.
1848. Albert Godfrey.
1849. Albert Godfrey.
1850. Albert Godfrey.
1851. Albert Godfrey.
1852. Albert Godfrey.
1853. Albert Godfrey.
1854. Albert Godfrey.
1855. Thomas C. Rand.
1856. Thomas C. Rand.
1857. Thomas C. Rand.
1858. Thomas C. Rand.
1859. Thomas C. Rand.
1860. George H. Tilden.
1861. George H. Tilden.
1862. George H. Tilden.
1863. George H. Tilden.
1864. George H. Tilden.
1865. George H. Tilden.
1866. George H. Tilden.
1867. George H. Tilden.
1868. George H. Tilden.
1869. John W. Sturtevant.
1870. John W. Sturtevant.
1871. John W. Sturtevant.
1872. John W. Sturtevant.
1873. John W. Sturtevant.
1874. John W. Sturtevant.

TREASURERS.

1753. David Nims.
1754. Ebenezer Nims.
1755. David Nims.
1756. David Nims.
1757. David Nims.
1758. (No record.)
1759. David Nims.
1760. David Foster.
1761. (No record.)
1762. Ephraim Dorman.
1763. Ephraim Dorman.
1764. Ephraim Dorman.
1765. Ephraim Dorman.
1766. Josiah Willard.
1767. (No record.)
1768. Ichabod Fisher.
1769. Ichabod Fisher.
1770. (No record.)
1771. (No record.)
1772. (No record.)
1773. Ichabod Fisher.
1774. Ichabod Fisher.
1775. Ichabod Fisher.
1776. Ichabod Fisher.
1777. Ichabod Fisher.
1778. Ichabod Fisher.
1779. Ichabod Fisher.
1780. Ichabod Fisher.
1781. Ichabod Fisher.
1782. Ichabod Fisher.
1783. Josiah Richardson.
1784. Thomas Baker.
1785. Thomas Baker.
1786. (No record.)
1787. Jeremiah Stiles.
1788. Josiah Richardson.
1789. Jeremiah Stiles.
1790. Jeremiah Stiles.
1791. Abel Blake.
1792. Abel Blake.
1793. Daniel Newcomb.
1794. Daniel Newcomb.
1795. Daniel Newcomb.
1796. Daniel Newcomb.
1797. Daniel Newcomb.
1798. Daniel Newcomb.
1799. Daniel Newcomb.
1800. Daniel Newcomb.
1801. Daniel Newcomb.
1802. Daniel Newcomb.
1803. Daniel Newcomb.
1804. Daniel Newcomb.
1805. Daniel Newcomb.
1806. Daniel Newcomb.
1807. Daniel Newcomb.
1808. Daniel Newcomb.
1809. Daniel Newcomb.
1810. Albe Cady.
1811. John Prentiss.
1812. John Prentiss.
1813. John Prentiss.
1814. John Prentiss.
1815. Elijah Parker.
1816. Elijah Parker.
1817. Elijah Parker.
1818. Elijah Parker.
1819. Elijah Parker.
1820. Foster Alexander.
1821. Foster Alexander.
1822. Foster Alexander.
1823. Eliphalct Briggs.
1824. Voted not to choose.
1825. Voted not to choose.
1826. Voted not to choose.
1827. Voted not to choose.
1828. Voted not to choose.
1829. None chosen.
1830. None chosen.
1831. Eliphalet Briggs.
1832. Voted not to choose.
1833. Voted not to choose.
1834. Voted not to choose.
1835. Voted not to choose.
1836. Voted not to choose.
1837. Voted not to choose.
1838. Voted not to choose.
1839. Voted not to choose.
1840. Timothy Hall.
1841. Timothy Hall.
1842. Timothy Hall.
1843. Thomas H. Leverett.
1844. Thomas H. Leverett.

1845. James H. Williams.
1846. James H. Williams.
1847. Thomas H. Leverett.
1848. Zebina Newell.
1849. Zebina Newell.
1850. Thomas H. Leverett.
1851. Thomas H. Leverett.
1852. Zebina Newell.
1853. Thomas H. Leverett.
1854. Zebina Newell.
1855. Zebina Newell.
1856. George W. Tilden.
1857. Royal H. Porter.
1858. George W. Tilden.
1859. Royal H. Porter.
1860. Royal H. Porter.
1861. Royal H. Porter.
1862. Royal H. Porter.
1863. George W. Tilden.
1864. George W. Tilden.
1865. Thomas H. Leverett.
1866. Thomas H. Leverett.
1867. George W. Tilden.
1868. Royal H. Porter.
1869. Royal H. Porter.
1870. Royal H. Porter.
1871. George W. Tilden.
1872. Henry O. Coolidge.
1873. Henry O. Coolidge.
1874. None chosen.



THOMAS M. EDWARDS.

City Chronology

COMPRISING EVENTS OF INTEREST IN THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF KEENE FROM 1874 TO 1904.

BY FRANK H. WHITCOMB.

(The events are separated by leaders (.....). Dates by months and days are given wherever practicable, and apply only to the events with which they appear.)

1874.

March 10, city government adopted; May 5, city government organized; Horatio Colony, first mayor.....Keene Public Library established. .....Invalids' Home incorporated.....New Baptist church built.....Voting population: Ward 1, 440; ward 2, 254; ward 3, 414; ward 4, 298; ward 5, 294.....June 13, death of Henry C. Handerson, postmaster..... Patent issued to Francis A. Perry, master mechanic of Cheshire Railroad Company, for an improved spark-arrester and consumer for locomotives and portable engines.....Gratuity of $160,000 voted to the Manchester & Keene Railroad Corporation.....Aug. 16, murder of Allen A. Craig..... Sept. 5, Mrs. Lydia M. Handerson appointed postmaster.....Cheshire Chair Company, which commenced business in January, 1869, and removed to the Hope mills (now Beaver mills) in 1872, enlarged its plant and established a branch store in Philadelphia, Penn.....Mechanical fire alarm attached to bell in city hall building at an expense of $100.

1875.

Horatio Colony, mayor.....Keene Humane Society organized..... Citizens National bank established.....Jan. 3, Kendall C. Scott, formerly editor of the Peterboro Transcript, died.....Keene Public Library formally surrendered to the city Feb. 2, and first books issued July 10.....February, big load of four-foot wood photographed by J. A. French, eleven and one-fourth cords.....March 2, brilliant meteor observed at 11.30 o'clock p. m. .....April 12, J. S. Taft & Co.'s pottery, Water street, destroyed by fire..... May 1, death of Thomas M. Edwards, lawyer and ex-congressman, aged seventy-nine years, four months.....May 11, $50,000 appropriated by Union school district for a new high school building.....May 20, new Baptist church dedicated.....July 3, grounds of the Keene Driving Park Association opened to the public.....June 5, a five years old son of Frank Harmon fatally burned in the Bouvier house on Howard street; Peter Bouvier's son, aged four years, died the day following, the children having set the fire with matches.....June 14, eight freight cars loaded with

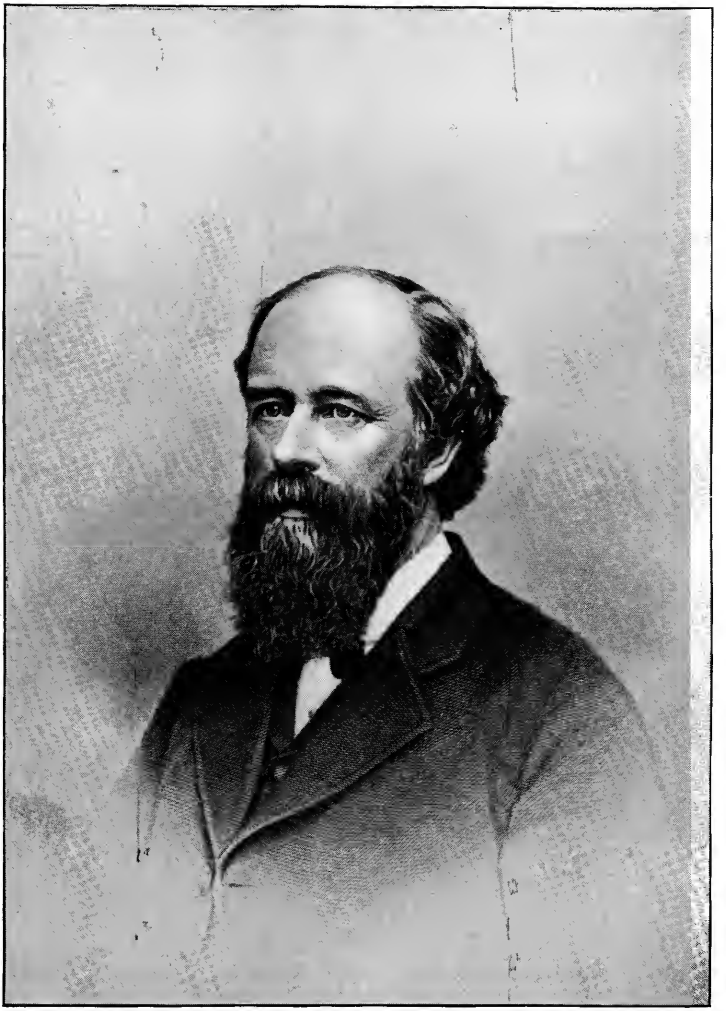
corn came into Keene from Troy, eleven miles in fourteen minutes, an engine caught the cars beyond the Cheshire tannery on grade.....June 20, high school kept in city hall; work of demolishing the old academy building commenced.....Citizens National bank commenced business Nov. 1.....Nov. 20, Woodbury's furniture shop on Beaver brook and adjoining shop destroyed by fire.....Nov. 21, Sally Ann Parker, widow of Elijah Parker, died in her ninety-fourth year, the oldest person but one in town; she was a daughter of Parson Hall and the last of a once distinguished family in this part of the state.....Dec. 16, death of Lydia M. Handerson; Thomas E. Hatch appointed acting postmaster.....Dec. 27, fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the church connected with the Keene Congregational Society (Unitarian.)

1876.

Edward Farrar, mayor.....March 16, twenty-fifth anniversary of the institution of Beaver Brook Lodge, I. O. O. F.; new hall in Ball's block dedicated.....April 19, death of Samuel Woodward, aged seventy-three.....May 10, death of William P. Wheeler in Brooklyn, N. Y., aged sixty-three.....Asa Smith appointed postmaster.....May 23, death of Charles Lamson, aged seventy-seven.....May 24, mysterious death of Alvin C. Foster.....May 31, Frank H. Starkweather, city clerk, died, aged twenty-six years.....June 18, Templar burial service read at the Second Congregational church over remains of John A. Duren, aged forty-four years.....July 3, Charles, son of Nelson N. Sawyer, fatally injured while firing a cannon at Holyoke, Mass.....July 4, celebration of the 100th anniversary of American independence, Rev. William Orne White, orator of the day.....July 22, death of ex-Gov. William Haile, aged sixty-nine.....July 28, John O. Smith, fireman on the Cheshire railroad, instantly killed at the bridge over the Ashuelot river, west of Keene station.....Aug. 14, police force strengthened by organizing fifty returned soldiers for special service, to prevent Manchester & Keene railroad riot.....Sept. 4, fiftieth anniversary reception tendered to Capt. Samuel Towne and wife at Second Congregational church.....Oct. 1, Rev. William O. White, for twenty-five years pastor of the Keene Congregational (Unitarian) Society, granted a leave of absence for a European tour.....Woodland cemetery enlarged.....Dec. 4, new high school building dedicated; James Powell, principal.....Memorial window placed in St. James' church in memory of the late Hon. William P. Wheeler, LL. D.

1877

Edward Farrar, mayor.....Feb. 26, death of Miss Julia Hall, in Boston.....March 19, in Chicago, Ill., death of Lucian Tilton, chief engineer in the construction of the Cheshire railroad.....Patent granted to John A. Wright for impervious oil cabinet.....March 28, Dorcas Balch, aged seventy-eight years, fatally burned.....Franklin W. Hooper elected principal of high school.....April 23, death of Lewis Campbell, aged seventy-five years, formerly register of deeds.....May, death of George W. Perry, formerly master mechanic of the Cheshire railroad.....Keene



CHARLES S. FAULKNER.

rary removed from Colony's block to Warren's block.....May, Mason published a city directory.....June 6, a seven years old John Dee drowned in the Ashuelot river.....July 6, Henry Ames Henry Lawler killed while preparing to move the Dr. Twitchell se on Main street.....July, Lamson block erected.....Aug. 27, formation of Keene Light Guard decided upon.....November, iron bridge over the Ashuelot river on Island street constructed.....Thursday, Nov. 22, St. James' church consecrated by Rt. Rev. Bishop Niles.....Dec. 3, monarch elm on James Donnelly's premises felled; height, eighty-five feet; girth one foot from the ground, twenty and one-half feet; twenty-eight feet from ground 190 grains or yearly growths were counted.

1878.

Reuben Stewart, mayor.....Jan. 7, Unity Lodge, No. 40, I. O. O. F. instituted.....Jan. 4, Taft's pottery destroyed by fire.....April 1, Keene High School Alumni Association formed.....April 17, Keene Light Guard battalion organized.....Population, ward 1, 1,592; ward 2, 991; ward 3, 1,473; ward 4, 1,133; ward 5, 1,299; total 6,488.....May 2, Warren J. Mason killed in the passenger depot by being knocked off a freight train by the arch.....July 22, Louis Carpenter drowned in Beaver brook reservoir.....Nov. 3, Rev. William O. White resigned pastorate of twenty-seven years and preached his farewell sermon.....Dec. 1, last spike of the Manchester & Keene railroad driven by Hon. Samuel W. Hale.....Dec. 2, first passenger car passed over Manchester & Keene railroad.....J. B. Elliot & Sons built a mowing machine factory at South Keene.....Feb. 13, thirtieth anniversary of Deluge Engine Company held at city hall.

1879.

Reuben Stewart, mayor.....Feb. 6, death of George W. Tilden, aged fifty-nine, and Joseph R. Beal elected cashier of the Keene National bank. .....Eugene C. Ramsdell resigned leadership of Keene Brass band and Theodore Allen appointed leader.....March 11, women have the first opportunity to vote in school district affairs; Mrs. Abby Bickford elected a member of the board of education.....March 18, Samuel Ham, who was run over by a Connecticut River railroad train, died.....May, Greenlawn Cemetery Company organized; Caleb T. Buffum, president..... May 22, death of Hon. Francis A. Faulkner, aged fifty-four years.....June 27, Taft's pottery warehouse on Main street struck by lightning and destroyed by fire, loss $20,000.....Bell telephones placed in business and private houses.....Street letter boxes erected.....July 28, Hon. Charles S. Faulkner died, aged sixty years.....Sept. 15, Michael Foley, aged nine years, killed on Cheshire tracks near the freight depot.....Prescott, the artist, painted a portrait of Gov. Samuel Dinsmoor for the state of New Hampshire and a portrait of Gen. James Wilson for citizens of Keene to be placed in the city hall. The latter was presented Nov. 13, at city hall, by Gen. S. G. Griffin for the donors, and Gen. Wilson responded..... Mechanical fire alarm striker attached to bell on city hall.

1880.

Horatio Kimball, mayor.....John H. Donovan, while operating a Cheshire railroad snowplow, on Jan. 1, was killed by a blow on the head. .....Jan. 27, death of Dauphin W. Buckminster, register of probate since 1871.....Feb. 2, death of Mrs. Eleanor McCrae, nearly ninety-four years of age and the oldest person in the city; her husband, a veteran of the war of 1812, died three years before, aged ninety.....February, Henry O. Coolidge appointed register of probate.....Keene Commandery, No. 90, U. O. G. C., organized.....Feb. 13, John Sedgwick Post, No. 4, G. A. R., revived; Col. John W. Babbitt, commander; post first organized Feb. 3, 1868, dormant since Sept. 5, 1872.....Hale & Sturtevant manufactured from 250 to 300 suits of furniture per week at Ashuelot mills.....Keene Brass band uniformed as the Second Regiment band by the state..... March, Josiah Parsons Cooke died in Boston; he was son of Noah Cooke, who died at his house on West street in 1829 at the age of eighty years, and brother of Noah R. Cooke, who died at the old homestead on West street, in 1872.....March 11, death of Dea. Elisha Rand, aged eighty-five years, a native of Hopkinton, Mass., but nearly a life long resident of Keene, one of the founders of the Second Congregational church and society.....March 24, Clarke's block destroyed by fire..... March 25, paint shop of Keene Chair Company at South Keene, destroyed by fire.....March 26, the First Congregational society gave a supper to the firemen, as a thank offering and in appreciation of the gallant services rendered by the fire department on Wednesday night, March 24.....April 29, one of the familiar landmarks of West street, "the old Cooke house," opposite the head of School street, taken down. .....May 7, Madam Elliot, widow of John Elliot, died in the ninety-fourth year of her age, at the house on Main street where she had lived for sixty-five years.....May 20, Frank M. Chapin ordained to the ministry as a missionary to North China, in the Second Congregational church.....City councils passed a new fire precinct ordinance.....In May, Gideon E. Lee, Fred W. Dodge and George R. Spencer were tried for murder of Alvin C. Foster and acquitted. A negro named Hamilton had previously been arrested for the crime but was not tried.....May 28, Stephen Preston Ruggles, the well known inventor, died at Lisbon and his remains were brought to Keene for burial; he invented the Ruggles printing press, the first of machine presses, and the raised alphabet for the blind; was a writer on the subject of mechanical education.....June 2, stockholders of Cheshire railroad voted to accept lease of the Monadnock road agreed upon by the directors.....Population, Ward 1, 1,732; ward 2, 1,091; ward 3, 1,479; ward 4, 1,165; ward 5, 1,322; total, 6,789; increase since 1870 of 818. (Population since the first census was taken: 1775, 756; 1790, 1,314; 1800, 1,645; 1810, 1,646; 1820, 1,895; 1830, 2,374; 1840, 2,611; 1850, 3,392; 1860, 4,320; 1870, 5,971; 1880, 6,789; 1890, 7,446; 1900, 9,165).....July 1, new council rooms completed in city hall building.....July 26, M. A. Bailey, of Middletown, Conn., elected principal of the high school.....Aug. 12, Deluge engine house removed from St. James street to Vernon street lot.....City hall remodeled, stage

and gallery added.....Aug. 25, death of William P. Abbott, aged sixty-nine years.....September, J. H. Stillman & Co. commenced the manufacture of misses' and ladies' boots and shoes in the Ashuelot shoe factory on Leverett street.....September, Manchester & Keene railroad finished.....Nov. 9, Hope steam mills property sold to Barrett Ripley for $50,000.....Nov. 5, there lay dead in Keene four old people, Mr. Ashley Mason, Mr. Carlton Parker, Mr. Louis Howe and Mrs. Louisa Holman, each leaving a partner in life and all of them having celebrated their golden weddings.....November, Clarke's brick block completed.....November 22, death of Elijah Holbrook, aged seventy-two years, formerly proprietor of the Cheshire House.....December, Burdett chair factory built. ....."Liberty Hall" opened in Clarke's block, Dec. 28, by K. L. G. battalion.

1881.

Ira W. Russell, mayor.....Jan. 2, Nelson A. Bartlett killed near the "Gulf bridge," aged twenty-six years.....Jan. 6, Mrs. Lizzie M. Converse elected librarian of the Keene Public Library.....Jan. 13, the new city hall opened to the public.....Beaver mills incorporated.....Ashuelot shoe factory, Leverett street, totally destroyed by fire on the evening of Feb. 22; $1000 reward offered by the New Hampshire Fire Underwriters' Association for the conviction of the incendiary.....April, Keene Public Library removed to the north store in the city hall building.....J. Mason Reed removed his box factory business from Westport to Beaver mills..... May 29, Gen. James Wilson died, aged eighty-four years.....June 22, settees placed in Central park.....John J. Allen, Jr., appointed special justice of the police court.....Buckley H. Stone, a pensioner of the war of 1812, died June 24, aged eighty-four years.....July, High School Cadets supplied with guns.....July 7, license granted J. W. Peck & Co., to erect telephone poles and wires in the streets and highways of the city..... Appropriation made for the purchase of an Amoskeag steam fire engine .....Vulcanized Can Company commenced the manufacture of cans and packages.....Joseph B. Abbott appointed special police justice.....A private hospital opened on Water street, by Drs. Twitchell and Bridgman..... Keene telephone exchange located in Nims' block.....July 21, severe thunder storm, lightning struck A. B. Skinner's house on Roxbury street and water main in street was torn for a distance of six or eight hundred feet.....Sept. 1, old Lamson tannery buildings removed, nearly 100 years old.....Aug. 24, Daniel R. Calef, ticket agent and manager of the Western Union Telegraph office, died, aged forty-four years, and Charles H. Cutter appointed manager of the Western Union office.....Aug. 24, George F. Starkweather died, aged sixty-six years.....September, new exit for city hall constructed.....Sept. 5, dark day, impossible to read at noon without a light.....Cheshire County Telephone Company formed, telephone lines to South Keene and Marlboro completed.....Passenger and postal cars built by the Cheshire Railroad Company in the Keene shops. .....Keyes' block (built in 1833) enlarged.....Nov. 12, John A. Thayer, jeweller, died, aged sixty-three years.....Charles K. Colony opened the first silo for preserving ensilage constructed hereabouts, Nov. 22, in the

presence of some thirty farmers.....Dec. 1, S. S. Wilkinson & Co. removed their harness business to the new factory in rear of Lamson block.....Mr. C. H. Cutter removed to Lincoln, Neb., and Fred H. Gove took charge of the Western Union Telegraph office.....Keene Gas Light Company erected new works at a cost of $7,000, changed the method of making gas and reduced the price to $3.00 a thousand feet.....A large walnut tree cut down near Asa Cole's, having 125 clearly defined rings.....Dec. 8, death of Dr. Thomas B. Kittredge, at the age of seventy-nine years, one of the founders of St. James' parish.....Dec. 16, new schoolhouse on Park avenue dedicated by District No. 10, the bell being a present to the district from John Symonds and a strip of additional land the gift of several gentlemen.

1882.

Ira W. Russell, mayor.....Jan. 8, Rev. J. A. Leach resigned pastorate of Second Congregational church. Had been installed Sept. 16, 1869..... Jan. 17, death of Dr. Ira F. Prouty.....March, City Physician Bridgman vaccinated 550 citizens.....March 21, death of Peter B. Hayward, at the age of sixty-two years.....Vulcanized Can Company removed to brick shop on Mechanic street.....April 7, Henry C. Maxham, a well known Pullman car conductor and son-in-law of Master Mechanic Francis A. Perry, fell from his train and was killed, while nearing Danbury, N. H., aged thirty-five years.....April, W. A. Barrett and L. P. Alden opened a new brick yard in rear of the Robinson place, on Main street.....William W. Towne, for twelve years in Knowlton & Stone's hardware store and later of the firm of Towne & Jackson, died April 23, aged thirty-seven years.....June, Ashuelot mills enlarged and the manufacture of hard wood furniture commenced.....June 17, old building north of Lamson block torn down to be replaced by a three-story brick building for the use of the Keene Five Cents Savings bank and Messrs. Woodbury & Howard. .....July 22, three Indian skeletons unearthed at H. M. Darling's on upper Court street and taken in charge by the Keene Natural History Society.....Aug. 24, Col. George E. Waring presented plan for system of sewers to cost $85,000 and it was adopted.....The Victor Wringer Company commenced manufacture of wringers on Mechanic street.....Aug. 21, dwelling house of George M. Gowen on Madison street burned to the ground, his three years old daughter perishing in the flames.....L. W. Holmes resigned the office of city solicitor, to remove to Washington, D. C., and John T. Abbott was chosen to fill the vacancy.....Aug. 28, Wesley L. Kirk, aged seventeen years, drowned while bathing in the Ashuelot river.....Sept. 24, a freshet, highest for fifteen years, submerged Main street near the pottery, Winchester street below the bridge, Surry road, Water, Church, Island, Pearl, Ralston and Emerald streets..... Cheshire railroad constructed a coal dump, the platform storing 4,000 tons.....Sept. 30, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Foster celebrated their golden wedding.....November, execution issued against the city in the Manchester & Keene railroad suit, for $160,588.30; the city issued bonds at 4% to the amount of $160,000.....Samuel W. Hale elected governor of New Hampshire.....Dec. 24, death of Horatio A. Nelson, a Montreal millionaire, said to have been born here in 1816.

1883.

Horatio Kimball, mayor.....Jan. 2, the judgment in the Manchester & Keene railroad suit paid, amounting to $162,809.76.....Jan. 3, death of Nelson Morse in his seventy-third year.....Jan. 14, Calista, widow of Hon. Henry Coolidge, died in her ninety-second year.....March 30, Woodbury's principal mill and machinery destroyed by fire and work of rebuilding commenced.....May, connections made with the new Waring sewer.....Bell placed in tower of Second Congregational church.....June 4, Dea. John Clark died at the age of eighty-two years.....Pargetized Can Company and the Vulcanized Can Company formed the Impervious Package Company.....June 23, John J. Allen, register of deeds, resigned after a twenty years' term of service and Charles C. Buffum was appointed to the office.....J. S. Taft & Co. put in a new kiln for finishing decorated pottery and placed Wallace L. King, the artist, in charge of this department.....Sept. 13, Misses Laura B. and Kate L. Tilden opened a school for young ladies, at their home on West street.....Aug. 20, Cheshire House block on Roxbury street destroyed by fire.....Aug. 25, Amoskeag steamer, No. 1, given its first trial on Central square; cost of engine, $3,626.27.....Aug. 23, an independent steamer company organized, the members to serve without pay.....Aug. 18, death of Salmon Wright, formerly for many years steward of the Eagle Hotel, aged seventy-three years.....Sept. 11, Waring sewer system completed and accepted by the city.....Oct. 5, death of John E. Colony, aged fifty-two years.....Cheshire House three-story brick block built.....Nov. 18, seventy-fifth meridian time adopted and regulators changed to the new standard, about sixteen minutes slower than the previous Boston time.....Sale of railroad bonds, $162,416; sewerage bonds, $71,617; cost of sewers to date, $80,000. .....Keene Guaranty Savings bank established.

1884.

Horatio Kimball, mayor.....Jan. 1, Cheshire County Telephone Company passed into the hands of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company; A. M. Nims, local manager.....Feb. 23, Ashuelot mills burned, loss $75,000.....March 24, death of John J. Holbrook, aged thirty-nine years.....April 27, death of Theodore J. French, for seventeen years a merchant in Keene.....May, old Cheshire county jail (erected in 1833) torn down; glass factory lot purchased and contract made for building new jail with Foster Brothers for about $25,000.....June 9, death of Seloman Edwards, caused by falling from a derrick at the Humphrey machine shop.....June 16, a large elm tree on the Page place, Washington street, an old landmark for more than a hundred years, cut down.....June 20, death of John J. Allen, Jr., editor of the Sentinel 1853 -4, aged sixty-six years.....July 9, the "old town brook" discontinued as a public sewer and 150 property owners ordered to connect with the sewerage system.....July 18, death of Henry Colony, aged sixty-one years. .....Aug. 7, Shaw Brothers shoe business and factory to be erected exempted from taxation for a term of years; Keene Improvement Company formed; capital stock $15,000; new shoe factory built by Foster

Brothers for $12,500, on Dunbar street.....Sept. 7, death of Charles C. Webster, the oldest member of the Cheshire county bar, aged seventy-four years.....November, G. H. Tilden & Co. manufactured shoe boxes for use at the new shoe factory; the old Twitchell house used for the purpose.....Dec. 18, death of Dea. Simeon Ballou, aged seventy-three years. .....Dec. 26, death of Annie J. Brown, aged sixteen years, at Ingalls railroad crossing on West street.

1885.

Alfred T. Batchelder, mayor.....Charles H. Hersey first elected city auditor.....Jan. 21, new jail completed, Jonas C. Rice, jailor.....February, steamer house finished and accepted by the city.....Feb. 10, death of George Kingsbury, aged sixty-six years.....City fireproof vault built.....March 4, death of Dr. Algernon S. Carpenter, aged seventy years.....March 28, death of John Symonds, aged sixty-eight years, his bequest to the city estimated at from thirty to forty thousand dollars.....March 21, the Cheshire Tanning Company organized, capital stock $100,000.....Nov. 16, district fire alarm telegraph adopted.....May 3, death of Councilman Charles R. Nims, aged thirty-three years.....Keene National bank building raised and rooms fitted up for the telephone exchange.....May 18, death of Edwin G. Metcalf, aged eighty years.....June 8, schoolhouse lot on Elliot street purchased for $2,000 and Main street lot sold; $8,000 appropriated for construction of Elliot school building.....June 14, death of Albert Kingsbury, aged seventy-three years.....July 15, Cheshire locomotives all changed to coal burners.....July 20, Barnum's elephant Albert shot by the Keene Light Guard battalion on the banks of the Ashuelot.....August, 1,450 feet of 12-inch tile drain pipe laid from the tannery district to Ashuelot river at an expense of $1,400.....Aug. 22, Main street schoolhouse demolished in widening Appian way; damages paid by the city to Union school district amounting to $1,300.....Ashuelot Railroad Company built an engine house on Main street.....Sept. 7, death of David Woodward, aged eighty-six years.....Monadnock Agricultural works manufactured disc harrows, and other agricultural implements near the driving park on Main street.....Oct. 9, Wheeler & Faulkner's law office building on Roxbury street taken down; Cheshire Provident Institution enlarged its brick block on the east side for a larger postoffice.....Samuel Wadsworth made a circuit-breaking clock to strike the bells upon the new Stevens fire alarm system, the system comprising four miles of wire, five alarm boxes, etc., cost $600; Frank G. Pratt appointed superintendent of fire alarm telegraph.....Nov. 8, death of Francis E. Newcomb, aged sixty-five years.....Nov. 12, Keene Horse Thief Detecting Society formed.....Dec. 17, death of Benjamin D. Hutchins, aged sixty-five years.....Storm signals displayed by the telephone company.....Dec. 31, death of Councilman Harrison R. Ward, aged forty-nine years, the second member of the city government to die while holding office.

1886.

Alfred T. Batchelder, mayor.....Jan. 10, Baptist church debt paid and appropriate services held.....Feb. 2, Dea. Daniel Darling and wife

celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage.....March, board of education prepared check list for use at school district meeting, the voters in Union district numbering about 4,000 names.....By the will of Susan F. Eastburn the city of Keene was left a bequest of $300, in trust for the poor; Mrs. Eastburn was the youngest daughter of David Simmons and a native of Keene; her brother David had also left the city $1,000 in trust for the poor and infirm.....New Keene Light Guard armory dedicated, the citizens donating $820.....March 4, committee appointed to investigate sources of water supply.....First Congregational society purchased the D. C. Howard place on Marlboro street for a parsonage.....March 17, death of Lewis Lane, aged seventy-two years. .....Ashuelot National bank block remodeled and a third story added..... March 29, first school meeting of new town district held at West Keene schoolhouse.....Cheshire National bank building remodeled.....April 1, Cheshire County fair grounds conveyed to the city by George A. Wheelock for a public park.....April 6, severe gale of wind lasting nearly all day; roofs of two shops at Beaver mills and roof of Nims, Whitney & Co.'s engine house blown off; John Humphrey's barn twisted upon its foundations; large elm blown over.....Daniel Coffey fell from the Island street bridge and was drowned, April 13.....Electric fire alarm striker bought for city hall bell.....Keene Manufacturing Company commenced to make skates in the South Keene shops.....May, North Lincoln street laid out to prevent team work being carried on through the cemetery.....Elliot school building erected.....Keene Bicycle Club established. .....June, postoffice opened to the public on Sundays.....June 3, concrete sidewalks ordered on east side of Court street and on the north side of West street, the first laid by the city.....June 11, Rural Improvement Society organized.....Woodward pond, area 108 acres, purchased for an additional water supply; octagon reservoir on Beech hill constructed; more land secured around Woodward pond.....Concrete walk ordered on the east side of Main street.....June 17, license granted to the Thompson-Houston Electric Company to put up poles and wires for electric lighting. .....June 19, Jailer Rice resigned; Charles A. Chapin appointed to fill the vacancy.....Aug. 14, death of Jonathan Parker, aged seventy-three years. .....Aug. 18, death of City Clerk Samuel Nims, aged forty-eight years. .....Aug. 19, electric lights of the open arc pattern installed in Tilden & Co.'s, Whitcombs', Mason & Wheeler's, Bullard & Foster's, C. N. Chandler & Co.'s, Fisher & Jackson's and the Cheshire House.....Aug. 28, first electric street light installed on Roxbury street beyond the postoffice. .....Aug. 30, parochial school opened with about 300 scholars.....September, Miss Mary B. Dinsmoor purchased the belt of wood and timber land adjoining Maple avenue to be preserved for the use of the public. .....Sept. 10, Milton Blake assumed the office of city clerk.....Sept. 13, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cross celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage.....Oct. 7, George H. Tilden presented a portrait of David Simmons to the city, which was hung in city hall.....I. J. Dunn erected a chair factory; the city exempted it from taxation for a term of ten years and the citizens made up a gratuity of $500 to secure the establishing

of the plant.....Oct. 26, death of Alvah E. Metcalf, aged seventy-two. .....St. James' parish purchased the Calef house on Court street for a rectory.....Nov. 1, Ormond E. Colony assumed the duties of postmaster. .....Nov. 3, death of David Seward, aged seventy years.....Nov. 3, Mr. and Mrs. Dauphin W. Wilson celebrated their golden wedding.....Keene Gas Light Company purchased the Thompson-Houston electric lighting apparatus and furnished street and commercial lights; a new boiler house and building erected at the gas works for an electric light station.

1887.

Asa Smith, mayor.....March 20, death of Clark N. Chandler, aged forty years.....Dunn & Salisbury's chair factory and Elliot school building completed.....Roaring brook water shut off and repairs made; it took thirty-eight minutes for water to come from the upper reservoir to the Beech hill reservoir, a distance of 15,000 feet.....June 18, death of Farnum F. Lane, aged seventy-one years.....July 8, death of Dea. Isaac Rand, aged seventy-six years.....July 9, death of Marvin T. Tottingham, aged sixty-two years.....July 27, Samuel A. Gerould celebrated his ninety-fourth anniversary; he was six years old at the death of Washington and had seen the administration of every president of the United States, the first railroad, steamboat, cotton gin, spinning jenney, telegraph, telephone and electric light.....August, a large elm tree near the Episcopal church pollarded to save its life, the top being dead.....New street numbers attached to buildings by Engineer Wadsworth at an expense of about $400..... Aug. 29, death of Joseph H. Wellington, aged sixty-one years.....Storm water sewer from the Square through Roxbury street to Beaver brook constructed at an expense of $2,830.....Col. Cyrus Frost, aged ninety years, passed away, the last survivor of those who were present at the establishment of Social Friends Lodge, in 1825, by Gen. James Wilson. .....Sept. 20, death of Lanmon Nims, aged seventy-six years.....Sept. 21, death of Samuel Allen Gerould, aged ninety-four years.....Sept. 24, death of George W. Ball, aged sixty-seven years.....Sept. 29, death of Francis French, aged sixty-nine years.....Oct. 7, fifty citizens presented to the city an oil portrait of the late Dr. Amos Twitchell to be hung in the city hall. .....Dec. 10, death of Allen Giffin, aged eighty-five years.

1888.

Asa Smith, mayor.....Jan. 1, postal delivery introduced, with three postal carriers, covering a distance of twenty-five miles per day each, having twenty-seven hundred names of persons receiving mail; more than one-half of the postoffice boxes given up by the public; total pieces handled during the month, 36,142.....Jan. 9, death of Cyrus Piper, at Northampton, Mass.....Jan. 20, death of Barrett Ripley, aged sixty years. .....Jan. 11, Mount Huggins Hotel destroyed by fire.....Feb. 2, Rev. Edward A. Renouf presented $500 as a fireman's relief fund to the city..... Feb. 11, death of Hon. Edward Farrar, clerk of court, aged sixty-five years.....Keene Board of Trade organized; Alfred T. Batchelder first

president.....Fireman's Relief Association formed, John A. Batchelder, president.....Feb. 28, Lewis W. Holmes appointed clerk of court.....March 2, United Order of Pilgrim Fathers established in Keene; James S. Taft, governor of Monadnock Colony, No. 107.....March 4, death of James B. Elliot, aged seventy-three years.....March 4, Lewis W. Holmes appointed justice of the police court.....Monday, March 12, great blizzard lasting three days; drifts from twelve to fifteen feet high.....March 27, Cheshire Grange, No. 131, organized; Solomon F. Merrill, master.....Over 47,000 pieces of matter handled by the city letter carriers during the month.....April 27, new creamery opened by Curtis G. Britton on his farm. .....May 21, all hotels closed by the proprietors on account of an attempt to rigidly enforce the liquor laws; accommodations for 150 guests arranged at private houses by the Keene Temperance Union; over 200 transients fed at the restaurants on May 22.....June 1, Daniel H. Sawyer, superintendent of water works and sewers, resigned and Paul F. Babbidge elected to fill the vacancy.....June 7, City park set aside for public use, George A. Wheelock elected first park commissioner.....August, Charles H. Douglass of Suffield, Conn., elected principal of high school.....Aug. 10, death of John A. Draper, aged eighty-four years.....Aug. 11, Samuel Bergeron, a brakeman on the Cheshire railroad, killed near the woodshed on Railroad street, being run over by the tender of an engine.....County commissioners built a pond in the jail lot and connected the same with the city water main.....Aug. 13, hotels reopened.....Aug. 22, two handsome chairs manufactured by L. J. Colony shipped to the White House, for Mrs. Grover Cleveland.....Nov. 3, death of George Tilden, aged eighty-six years.....Cheshire railroad trains equipped with steam heating apparatus. .....Nov. 6, Abel Blake cast his eighteenth ballot for president, having cast his first vote for James Monroe, in 1847.....Cash registers introduced in the stores.....Charles M. Norwood established his box business at the Beaver mills.....Ellis Brothers erected a model commercial greenhouse at their Winchester street farm.....Dec. 1, death of Edward R. Gilmore, aged sixty-eight years.....New harness manufactory completed for Wilkinson & McGregor, on the Lamson estate.

1889.

Herbert B. Viall, mayor.....Jan. 2, the New Hampshire Sentinel, having, from the day of its first issue in 1799, maintained the most prominent of its original features, changed from the folio to the quarto form. .....Jan. 19, Faulkner & Colony Manufacturing Company, organized in 1815, incorporated; capital stock $100,000.....Feb. 27, first overhead cash system in the city installed in W. P. Chamberlain's store.....March 20, Ancient Order of United Workmen established in Keene; George G. Dort, past master workman.....March 11, death of Lieutenant Henry E. Hubbard, aged fifty-three.....March 26, $15,000 fire at Beaver mills..... New jet pump put in at the mouth of Butler court main sewer.....April 1, Hon. John T. Abbott appointed minister to the republic of Colombia. .....April 18, George A. Wheelock presented two lots of land, one of twelve acres, to be called the Children's Wood, adjoining City park on

Beech hill, and one of seventeen acres adjoining Wheelock park, to the city of Keene, to be forever kept as forest tracts and a part of said parks.....April 28, Rev. W. H. Eaton, D. D., resigned a pastoral engagement of seventeen years.....April 30, centennial of the inauguration of Washington celebrated at St. James' Episcopal and the Second Congregational churches.....May 8, Greenlawn cemetery conveyed to the city..... May 15, Engineer Wadsworth engaged to survey the principal streets with a view to establishing the grade for the roadway of each street.....June 15, a new daily paper, called the Daily Tribune, Webster P. Huntington, editor and proprietor, made its appearance.....June 20, West Keene cemetery enlarged.....July 12, death of Jehiel Wilson, aged eighty-nine years, the inventor of pail turning.....First granite pavement laid on Roxbury street.....July 15, Frank E. Joy commissioned postmaster at South Keene.....Aug. 5, death of Ephraim Foster, aged eighty-six years. .....Rev. Charles B. Elder called to the pastorate of the Unitarian church and Rev. Samuel A. Severance to the pastorate of the Baptist church..... Aug. 7, reunion of the Sixth New Hampshire Volunteers.....Aug. 9, death of Horace Hamblet, aged seventy-two years.....Epworth League formed at the Methodist Episcopal church.....Keene Improvement Society commenced extensive grading and planting on the borders of Main street..... Aug. 21, twenty-fifth anniversary of the first service held in St. James' Episcopal church.....September, South Keene postoffice established ..... Sept. 25, John Shaw, 2d, sold the shoe manufacturing business to C. B. Lancaster & Co.....Oct. 3, death of Eugene S. Ellis, aged seventy-nine years.....Oct. 6, Rev. C. B. Elder began his pastorate at the Unitarian church.....Oct. 15, Bethany Mission opened by Mr. F. L. Sprague..... Patent granted to John A. Wright upon his invention for heating water for cattle to drink in cold weather.....Fifty cases of diphtheria reported in October, forty-two of which were in houses not connected with the Waring system of sewers, and of which twelve were fatal.....Nov. 18, Unitarian Club organized, George B. Twitchell, M. D., first president..... Triumph Wringer Company built a shop on Myrtle street.....Clipper Machine Works organized; capital stock $20,000.....Curtis G. Britton opened a new creamery on Eastern avenue.....Twenty-seven cases of diphtheria reported in November, three of which were fatal.....Dec. 9, frogs peeping in the meadows.....Dec. 13, thirty-second anniversary of the Ladies' Home Circle of the First Congregational church celebrated.

1890.

Herbert B. Viall, mayor.....Jan. 1, New England Observer purchased by and consolidated with the New Hampshire Sentinel.....Free text books furnished for the pupils in the public schools.....Jan. 6, two freight trains collided on the Cheshire railroad, near the Surry summit; Engineer S. W. Slate and Fireman C. W. Gibson instantly killed.....Feb. 8, death of George B. Buffum, aged sixty-one years.....Second steam fire engine purchased.....Ashuelot Railroad Company consolidated with the Connecticut River railroad.....March, Triumph Wringer Company's new manufactory on Myrtle street completed.....Charles Bridgman retired after

RESIDENCE OF GEN. JUSTUS PERRY. IN WHAT IS NOW COOLIDGE PARK.

an active and successful business career of fifty years, being the oldest merchant in the city, and was succeeded by his son, Charles H. Bridgman.....May 7, Coolidge park and fund presented to the city by Henry O. Coolidge.....June 25, old Buffum building taken down, and old military equipments which belonged to the famous Keene Light Infantry found. .....Large buttonwood tree on the corner of Main and Winchester streets cut down, ninety years old.....July 9, death of Seth Wadsworth, aged seventy-nine years.....Population by census 7,446, being increase of 657 since 1880.....July 28, death of Rufus Carter, aged eighty years.....July 30, death of Charles Batchelder, aged seventy-five years.....Aug. 11, death of Daniel Buss, aged seventy-five years.....Sept. 8, last issue of the Keene Daily Tribune.....Sept. 17, new macadamizing plant erected above Sullivan street.....Horatian tower erected on Beech hill, by Horace L. Goodnow; altitude 1,084.....Sept. 18, stockholders of the Cheshire Railroad Company voted to ratify agreement for consolidation with the Fitchburg Railroad Company.....All dogs in the city ordered muzzled..... Building erected by the state for a fish hatching station, at City park..... Sept. 29, death of Samuel Woods, aged eighty-three years.....Oct. 1, Cheshire railroad consolidated with the Fitchburg railroad..... Rustic portals erected over the drives into the Ladies' Wildwood park, by Frank F. Field, the artist.....Oct. 3, Abel Blake observed the ninety-fifth anniversary of his birth.....Oct. 6, death of Moses Ellis, aged fifty-seven years.....Oct. 8, Amos A. Parker, of Fitzwilliam, aged ninety-nine that day, called upon his friends in Keene.....Oct. 20, Keene Evening Sentinel established.....Oct. 22, Monadnock Colony, Pilgrim Fathers, entertained Plymouth Colony of Fitchburg, Mass.....Oct. 19, death of Mrs. John Symonds, aged sixty-eight years.....Oct. 29, death of Dea. Daniel Darling, aged eighty-three years.....November, ground broken for the Keene Granite and Terra Cotta factory, on Water street.....Nov. 14, George H. McCurdy died from exposure in Tenant swamp, aged thirty-six.....Nov. 16, death of Col. Nehemiah Hart, aged eighty years.....Nov. 24, death of Milton Blake, 2d, aged sixty-one years.....December, pavilion erected in Wheelock park.....Dec. 2, death of Jason Williams, aged eighty-eight years.....December, Mr. and Mrs. Warren C. Towne celebrated their fiftieth marriage anniversary.....Dec. 19, Fred E. Barrett appointed postmaster.

1891.

Horatio Kimball, mayor.....Jan. 22, seventy-second anniversary of the birth of ex-Mayor Reuben Stewart celebrated, and he was presented with a gold watch.....St. Bernard's Catholic church realized the sum of $3,000 from a fair.....Incandescent lighting plant installed at the Beaver mills. .....Jan. 26, death of Joseph Holt, aged sixty-six years.....Feb. 12, citizens wrote congratulatory letters to Rev. William Orne White, on the seventieth anniversary of his birth.....Feb. 22, death of Horatio Justus Perry, at Lisbon, Portugal; born in Keene, Jan. 23, 1824; son of Justus Perry and Mary Edwards.....March 12, death of Charles Bridgman, aged seventy-five years.....March 29, death of Joshua D. Colony, aged eighty-six years.....Store fronts upon the south wing of the Cheshire House extended.

.....April 6, twenty-fifth anniversary of the Grand Army of the Republic celebrated; address by Gen. John W. Sturtevant.....April 16, Ladies' Wildwood park accepted by the city.....April 20, death of William Bassett, aged seventy-two years.....April 22, Nims' block removed.....May 20, Lane's brick block commenced.....May 29, earthquake shock felt about 7.00 p. m.....April 26, death of Lewis J. Colony, aged fifty-eight years. .....June 4, stone crusher started at quarry plant.....June 7, vested choir of St. James' church assisted in the services for the first time.....June 13, first macadam laid, about 1,300 feet on Court street, at an expense of $4,236, or about $1.10 per square yard.....June 15, Clipper mowing machine works burned at South Keene; loss $20,000.....July 15, fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Spalter observed..... C. B. Lancaster Shoe Company organized; capital $30,000; exemption granted and the easterly portion of Dunbar street discontinued; shoe factory enlarged.....Aug. 10, death of James Boyce, aged sixty-one years. .....Roxbury street storm water sewer laid at an expense of $3,000, to Beaver brook.....Aug. 21, death of Sheriff Ralph J. Holt, aged seventy-eight years.....Oct. 16, death of ex-Gov. S. W. Hale, aged sixty-nine years. .....Read Manufacturing Company made furniture at South Keene.....St. Bernard's Roman Catholic church erected on Main street.....Oct. 21, Beedle's orchestra organized.....Ten miles of iron water pipe laid to replace cement lined pipes and to extend system in fifty-nine streets, at a cost of $39,494.38.....Dec. 12, death of Chief Engineer Henry H. Haines, at the scene of a fire in Elliot's block, his age being forty-seven years..... D. R. & F. A. Cole began business at their new grist mill in South Keene. .....Fred B. Pierce & Co. began to manufacture brush handles at the Beaver mills.

1892.

Frederic A. Faulkner, mayor.....Jan. 16, death of Joseph B. Abbott, aged fifty-six years.....Epidemic of grip, a single physician visiting thirty patients in one day.....Jan. 30, death of Ebenezer S. Stearns, run over by an engine near the Fitchburg freight house.....Dan and Earl Hill removed their pail ear manufacturing business from Swanzey to the mill at Willson pond, West Keene.....Feb. 16, new factory of Lancaster Shoe Company dedicated by a dance.....Feb. 26, installation of Rev. A. W. Hand, at the Baptist church.....March 17, death of Dauphin W. Wilson, aged eighty-one years.....March 25, Union school district appropriated $8,000 for the erection of the Tilden schoolhouse on School street..... Officers of the night watch appeared in uniforms.....March 29, death of Stephen L. Randall, aged sixty-one years.....April 7, Elliot manor house presented to the city for a hospital, by John Henry Elliot.....April 14, the Keene Congregational (Unitarian) Society purchased the Dr. G. H. Bridgman property, on Washington street.....April 22, death of Alderman James H. Wilson, aged fifty-four years.....May 19, management of Elliot City Hospital placed in charge of a board of trustees.....May 28, special election, Francis A. Perry elected alderman by the voters of ward 1..... May 28, Deluge hose house, on Vernon street, sold to Nims, Whitney & Co.....Fraternal societies and individuals raised money to fit up memorial

rooms in the city hospital.....Piles driven to a depth of seventy-five feet on Vernon street and no bottom found, at site of new fire station..... Aug. 2, Hon. Amos A. Parker, of Fitzwilliam, then in his 101st year, visited friends in Keene.....Aug. 17, more than $1,000 contributed by citizens to open the Elliot City Hospital.....West street macadamized.....Sept. 20, Warren W. Stone and wife celebrated their golden wedding.....New storm water sewer built in Water street, from Main street to Beaver brook.....Elm street extended from Mechanic street to Vernon street..... Park street extended through to Ashuelot street and dead end in water main abolished.....Sept. 21, Elliot City Hospital dedicated with appropriate exercises.....Oct. 17, Union school district appropriated the further sum of $3,600 to finish the Tilden school.....Oct. 21, 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus celebrated in the public schools, which also contributed an exhibit for the Chicago exposition.....Oct. 28, death of Daniel Ellis, of Main street, aged seventy-three years.....November, Wilson street opened from Commercial street to Winchester street. .....Aldermen directed Engineer Wadsworth to set stone bounds at the points where the town line crosses the highways.....Nov. 20, St. Bernard's church dedicated, with impressive services.....Nov. 29, death of Augustus T. Wilder, aged seventy-four years.....Police signal light installed at the lower side of Central square, to be operated from the central telephone station.....Dec. 2, death of Hadley P Muchmore, aged seventy-three years.....Dec. 12, death of Gen. John W. Sturtevant, aged fifty-two years.

1893.

Frederic A. Faulkner, mayor.....Jan. 18, fire at Impervious Package Company's works.....Jan. 18, John W. Doyle, aged twenty-four years, lost his life in Warren's block, by injuries from smoke or fire.....Jan. 20, death of Oren Woods, aged eighty-four years.....Jan. 26, death of Caroline H. Ingersoll, aged sixty-six years.....March 3, death of Chester L. Kingsbury, aged forty-six years.....April 11, death of Isaac Stratton, aged eighty-five years.....May 22, boiler explosion at Beaver mills; Lewis W. Starkey, John F. Drolette and Herbert G. Holton killed and five boilers wrecked.....June, West street widened fifteen inches on the north side from Central square to Colorado street.....Aug. 7, severe hail storm, in Keene and vicinity, breaking windows and destroying garden crops.....Aug. 10, corner stone of the Young Men's Christian Association building laid, services being held in St. James' church.....Aug. 21, death of Lewis Holmes, aged seventy years.....Oct. 11, Sentinel published in its new building on Main street.....Oct. 11, death of Daniel H. Holbrook, aged eighty-seven years.....Nov. 19, death of Josiah Kingsbury, aged eighty-six years..... Nov. 25, Beaver mills pail shop and sawmill burned; loss $15,000..... Dec. 7, death of Elias Joslin, aged eighty-five years.

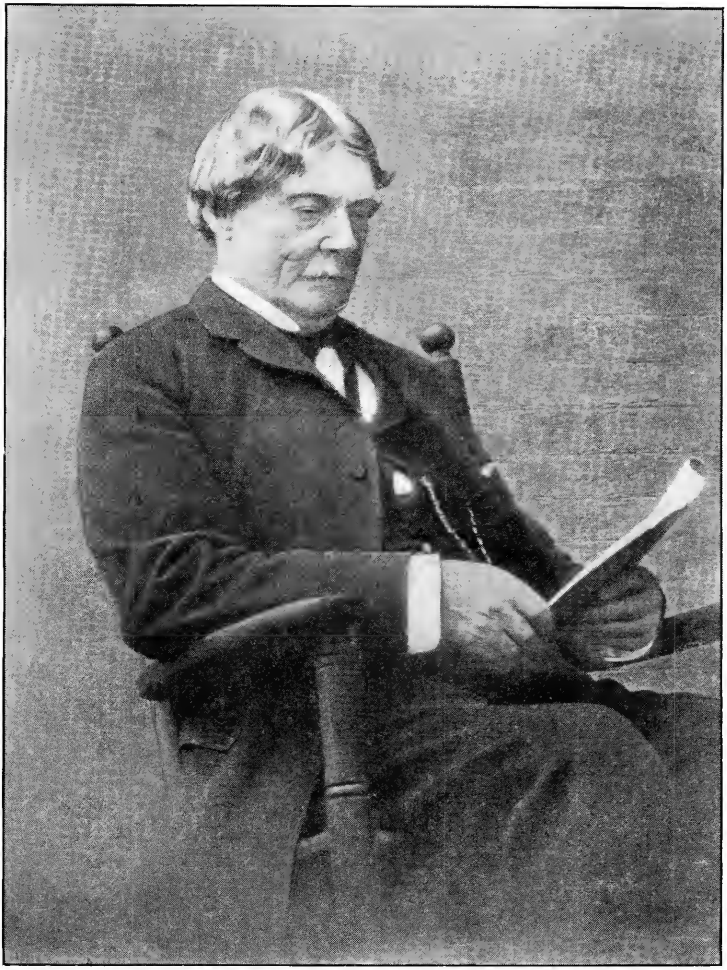
1894.

Frederic A. Faulkner, mayor.....Jan. 1, death of ex-Mayor Reuben Stewart, in Concord, Mass.....Jan. 9, death of Obed Dort, aged eighty-nine years.....Jan. 10, John T. Abbott appointed judge of probate.....

Jan. 22, Keene Board of Trade organized; Clement J. Woodward, president.....Work of taking down the Unitarian church building, on Main street, begun; clock removed.....Sunday, Jan. 28, the last public services held in the Unitarian church edifice, which had been dedicated April 28, 1830, and had stood on the corner of Main and Church streets for more than sixty-three years.....Jan. 31, section of Unitarian steeple, bell deck, clock tower, etc., pulled down.....Feb. 21, first report of the trustees of the Elliot City Hospital appeared.....March 15, dumping ground for rubbish established at the lower end of Main street.....April 18, Rev. Wm. G. Poor installed pastor of the First Congregational church.....May 7, steam road roller purchased.....Cheshire Beef Company, Messrs. Coughlin & Hovey, formed and Farnum's mill, on Emerald street, built over for its use.....Charles H. Fairfield constructed a pond, on Beech hill, for the purposes of his ice business.....Col. George Hagar, of Colusa, Cal., sent a contribution of $500 toward building the new Unitarian church..... June 4, new hall of the Y. M. C. A. building, on West street, used for the first time.....Thaddeus W. Harris, Ph. D., elected superintendent of schools. .....June 7, councils voted to sell Neptune hose house, situated on St. James street.....Court street macadamized.....June 25, Wilkins Toy works sold to Harry T. Kingsbury.....Standard Oil Company constructed a storage station on Water street.....Indurated Paper Company incorporated and the works of the New Hampshire Molded Granite and Terra Cotta Company, on Water street, purchased.....July 11, corner stone of new Unitarian church laid with appropriate ceremonies.....July 12, impressive services performed by Hugh de Payens Commandery, at the burial of Thomas E. Hatch, its first eminent commander.....July 19, death of Arad Fletcher, aged seventy-one years.....Aug. 11, death of Atwell C. Ellis, aged seventy-two years.....Aug. 22, death of Cyrus Woodward, aged eighty-one years. .....Aug. 29, G. E. Holbrook & Co. began to erect a large wholesale house on St. James street.....New highway opened for travel under the railroad tracks at South Keene; grade crossing abolished.....Sept. 28, Y. M. C. A. building dedicated.....Nov. 12, death of William Tenney, aged eighty years.....Goodnow & Whitcomb engaged in the furniture business.....Nov. 18, death of Charles F. Wilson, aged eighty-two years. .....December, Holbrook Grocery Company incorporated; capital stock $40,000.....Dec. 12, Red Men took possession of their rooms in the Gurnsey building, the northerly part of which was erected the same year. .....Lane's "E. F. L." building erected.....Dec. 19, death of ex-Mayor Horatio Kimball, aged seventy-three years.....Dec. 22, death of Abel Blake, aged ninety-nine years.

1895.

George W. McDuffee, mayor.....Jan. 1, Charles Brooks, S. Tennis Bergeron and Alwich Brooks killed by a passenger train on the Fitchburg railroad at the Water street crossing.....Electric lights of the city operated from the new station of the Keene Gas and Electric Lighting Company, at Spragueville.....Jan. 7, Charles F. Ballou severely injured by the falling of the elevator thirty feet, at the Keene Furniture Company's brick shop.....



JOHN HENRY ELLIOT.

Jan. 3, Col. Fred A. Barker nominated by President Cleveland to be postmaster at Keene.....Jan. 6, death of Joseph R. Beals, aged sixty years.....Jan. 24, new Unitarian church, on the corner of Washington and Taylor streets, dedicated in the presence of more than 800 people..... Jan. 27, death of Daniel Ellis, aged seventy years.....Jan. 31, Beaver Brook Lodge of Odd Fellows dedicated their new quarters in Lane's new building.....Feb. 20, Mr. and Mrs. George S. Raymond observed their golden wedding.....March 4, William Senneff, riding on freight car, struck an arch in the passenger station, was dragged between the station platform and rails, escaping death, and dropped unconscious on Main street. .....Henry W. Lane, Amherst '95, became the American college champion, according to the measurements and tests adopted by the American Association for the Advancement of Physical Education.....March 4, Keene National bank began business in its new quarters in the "E. F. L." building.....$2,500 damages awarded Elisha F. Lane for land taken in widening Church street.....March 19, Mrs. Roena Shelley celebrated her ninety-ninth birthday anniversary.....April 4, councils accepted from Mrs. Dauphin W. Nims the gift of an oil portrait of David Nims, the first town clerk, to be placed in the library building.....April 7, death of Benjamin F. Foster, aged eighty-three years.....April 9, the water in the Fairfield reservoir escaped, doing considerable damage .....April 9, water rose to an unusual height in the Ashuelot and Beaver brook valleys, old residents agreeing that there had not been such a flood for twenty-four years, and by the night of the 14th, Beaver brook was higher than ever remembered before by almost a foot, and the Ashuelot reached the high water mark. .....April 13, Keyes' corner sold to Charles L. Russell.....April 14, Rev. J. R. Power resigned the pastorate over St. Bernard's church.....May 2, councils provided for writing a history of Keene.....Municipal street sprinkling adopted.....May 9, death of Luther Fairbrother, aged seventy-two years.....May 14, Union school district voted to purchase the Wheeler property, on Washington street, for the Washington school lot.....June 7, death of Elbridge G. Whitcomb, aged seventy-seven years.....June 14, death of ex-Postmaster Ormond E. Colony, aged fifty-four years.....June 16, death of John Henry Elliot, aged eighty-two years.....June 30, telephone exchange moved from the Tierney building (formerly Keene National bank building) to Lane's new block, changing 138 circuits without discontinuing the service for more than a few minutes.....July, water works office enlarged.....July 4, celebration and first L. A. W. state meet, under the auspices of the Monadnock Cycle Club, took place.....July 14, Rev. Gabriel DeBevoise resigned a pastorate of nine years over the Second Congregational church.....July 29, Edward Gustine, Clark F. Rowell and Sheriff Horace Perry went to Albany, N. Y., to identify Mark Shinburn, the notorious bank robber.....Aug. 14, death of Amos Bancroft, aged seventy-three years.....Aug. 26, death of Col. George D. Dort, aged eighty-three years.....Aug. 27, one hundred Sir Knights of Hugh de Payens Commandery attended the twenty-sixth triennial conclave of the Grand Encampment of the United States, at Boston.....Oct. 3, councils abolished the board of hospital trustees.....Oct. 13, death of Laton Martin, aged

eighty-six years.....Oct. 25, death of Joseph M. Hyland, aged sixty-four years.....Nov. 28, Dr. George B. Twitchell received a loving cup, a bag of gold and a written testimonial from friends.....Dec. 17, at their first annual meeting, the Ashuelot Congregational Club celebrated Forefathers' Day.....Cost of macadam laid in 1891, per square yard, $1.09; 1892, 96.25 cents; 1893, 80.6 cents; 1894, 73.75 cents; 1895, 58 cents..... Gurnsey building completed.

1896.

George W. McDuffee, mayor.....Jan. 7, Cheshire National bank removed to banking rooms of the Cheshire Provident Institution, until repairs upon the Cheshire bank building were completed.....The national banks of the city asked to assist in replenishing the gold reserve of the United States treasury.....Jan. 21, ecclesiastical council held for the dismissal of Rev. Gabriel DeBevoise, and the installation of Rev. Archibald McCord, as pastor of the Second Congregational church.....Jan. 22, Gov. Busiel entertained at the fourth annual banquet of the Cheshire County Fish and Game League.....Jan. 24, Ashuelot Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, organized, with twelve charter members, Mrs. Margaret L. Griffin, regent.....Jan. 28, the Methodist society celebrated its release from debt with appropriate exercises.....Feb. 6, a hurricane lifted roofs, blew down chimneys, trees, etc.....Feb. 21, death of Julius N. Morse, aged fifty-five years.....Feb. 29, death of Henry O. Coolidge, aged sixty-six years.....March 19, Roena Shelley celebrated her 100th anniversary.....March 24, Union School district voted to build a schoolhouse on Greenlawn and Page streets, and appropriated $12,000.....April 18, death of James C. Whittle, aged seventy-two years.....April 16, city councils accepted $1,000 for the erection of the Allen Ingersoll fountain in Central park.....New office opened near the public library in the city hall building for the tax collector and assessors.....April, two-thirds of the employees in the woolen mills of the county idle, affected, the manufacturers said, by the Wilson-Gorman tariff law.....April 24, Union School district voted to enlarge the Washington school lot by the purchase of the Wheeler property on Washington street, at an expense of $3,000.....April 23, Keene Military band organized.....May 10, death of Dr. Henry H. Darling, aged seventy-two years.....May 11, Cheshire National bank returned to its new banking rooms in the Cheshire bank building.....The W. L. Mason Company organized, capital $60,000.....June 4, councils granted location for the tracks of the Keene Electric Railway Company.....June 3, Mr. and Mrs. Alba C. Davis celebrated their golden wedding.....June 12, Mayor McDuffee vetoed the bill providing for the use of the trolley system by the electric road.....June 10, large fire at Keene Furniture Company's finishing shop; $50,000 worth of property destroyed.....July 4, souvenir spoon presented to Mrs. Luther Sturtevant, one of the surviving daughters of Revolutionary soldiers, by the national society, through the local chapter.....July 19, Rev. Octavius Applegate, Jr., began his ministry as rector of St. James' Episcopal church.....Aug. 2, death of John A. Drummer, aged seventy-nine years.....Elliot City Hospital

incorporated.....Aug. 6, city councils relinquished the city's interest in the Elliot City Hospital to the new corporation.....Aug. 13, death of Sylvester Blodgett, aged seventy-four years.....Aug. 24, death of William G. Hall, aged seventy-six years.....Oct. 4, death of Edwin M. Bullard, aged forty-seven years.....Oct. 20, death of Charles H. Perry, aged sixty-six years.....Nov. 26, death of John W. Howes, aged sixty-two years.....Dec. 1, Washington schoolhouse completed.....Dec. 13, Rev. A. W. Hand resigned pastorate of the Baptist church.....Bicycle factory to be constructed in Keene and $40,000 subscribed for stock in the new enterprise.....Dec. 17, the Frank T. Fowler Manufacturing Company organized.....Dec. 28, death of Nathan G. Woodbury, aged seventy-three years.....Granite dam at Faulkner & Colony's mill pond constructed.

1897

Francis A. Perry, mayor.....The board of railroad commissioners, after a hearing, decided that it had no power to order a union passenger station constructed.....Jan. 14, death of Clark R. Caswell, aged sixty-one years.....G. E. & A. I. Fuller established a new industry at Beaver mills, for the manufacture of tacks and wire nails.....Jan. 15, Keene Savings bank established; first deposit book issued March 15..... March 1, Keene Electric Railway Company granted the right to use electricity applied by the overhead trolley system as the motive power of its road.....March 1, death of Stephen Randall, aged eighty-eight years.....March 5, Engineer Fred W. Towne presented with a gold watch and chain by the Deluge Hose Company.....March 15, an elegant sword presented to Captain Paul F. Babbidge, by Company H, Second regiment, N. H. N. G.....March 24, New Hampshire chiefs of police entertained at the Cheshire House by City Marshal W. H. Philbrick.....March 30, death of Dr. George B. Twitchell, aged seventy-six years; all bells of the city tolled.....April 3, death of Azro B. Skinner, in Winchendon, aged fifty-eight years.....April 6, Union school district voted to purchase a lot on which to place the old Washington street schoolhouse.....April 13, the A. B. Skinner Company incorporated.....April 14, Mrs. Daniel Allen celebrated the ninety-seventh anniversary of her birth, being, next to Mrs. Roena Shelley, then in her 102d year, the oldest person in town.....April 21, Ashuelot Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, placed a tablet upon the house of Mrs. R. S. Perkins, on Main street, where the soldiers met, April 21, 1775, to start for Lexington.....April 21, death of Daniel C. Howard, aged sixty-two years.....May 14, dam at Willson pond, West Keene, goes out, freeing thirty acres of water; bridge and abutments washed away.....May 19, Mr. and Mrs. N. G. Gurnsey celebrated their golden wedding.....May 26, probably 2,000 citizens used the bicycle, and rules for wheelmen were carefully laid down by the local enthusiasts.....June 2, death of Josiah T. Colony, aged fifty-six years..... June 10, lowlands overflowed, and business interfered with.....June 19, councils voted to exempt the proposed Trinity bicycle factory from taxation.....June 26, Colonial Club's second annual field day, at Wheelock park, address by Gen. S. G. Griffin.....July 17, freight wreck at West

Keene, Engineer Milan H. Curtis instantly killed, aged forty-eight..... From 11 a. m., Monday, July 12, to Wednesday morning at 10.30, five and fifty-six one-hundredths inches of water fell; great damage to hay and other corps, and business interfered with in many ways.....July 21, Good Roads Association formed by L. A. W. members.....July 25, George Foster, of Boston, died suddenly while making a call at the house of Dr. Ira J. Prouty.....July 27, death of George S. Hale, at Schooner Head, Me., aged seventy-one years; remains buried in Keene.....Aug. 1, national banks of the city received deposits bearing interest at the rate of 2½% per annum.....Aug. 10, cloudburst and violent wind, uprooting large trees; iron rods an inch in diameter fractured; a handsome elm tree seventy-five feet high thrown over upon F. G. Dort's house on Summer street.....Aug. 11, death of Leonard Wright, aged sixty-five years..... Portion of town brook which runs through C. A. Jones's land on Church street replaced with a twenty-four inch iron pipe.....Aug. 18, death of Eli Dort, aged eighty-one years.....Sept. 9, death of John Lahiff, aged ninety-four years.....Sept. 10, cycle path ordered by the board of mayor and aldermen from Albert Wright's on Court street to the Four Corners..... Sept. 20, Bliss Business College established, in Cheshire House block, Roxbury street, with forty-four pupils.....Sept. 21, licenses granted to the Keene Gas Light Company and the Keene Electric Railway Company for mutual rights in a pole line on west side of Main street.....October, Charles Giffin bought all the Washington street mills of the Woodbury estate.....Oct. 23, death of Joseph G. Warren, aged seventy-seven years.....Oct. 28, Mr. and Mrs. Seth C. Hall celebrated their golden wedding at their home on Arch street.....Nov. 6, marriage of Emmons Ball and Miss Emogene Humphrey, at San Jose, Costa Rica; the marriage ceremony of the church of England not being recognized, it was performed by the governor of the province.....Nov. 11, Trinity cycle factory formally dedicated under the auspices of the Monadnock Cycle Club and the Good Roads Association.....Electric power supplied for manufacturing and other purposes by the Keene Gas Light and Electric Power Company.....Nov. 16, Mr. and Mrs. Artemas Baker celebrated their golden wedding.....New hospital ambulance turned over to the trustees.....December, Rev. George L. Thompson, formerly of Stafford, Conn., accepted a call to become the pastor of the Universalist society and was installed on Dec. 23.....Dec. 2, councils accepted eighty acres of land adjoining the Beech hill reservoir and Woodland cemetery, for park purposes, from George A. Wheelock, the donor of Wheelock park and the Children's Wood.

1898.

George H. Eames, mayor.....Jan. 4, Royal H. Porter elected vice president of the Cheshire National bank, and voluntarily retired from the office of cashier, having held that position since Oct. 1, 1855, when the Cheshire bank, which was organized in 1804, was still a state bank; Walter R. Porter elected cashier.....Jan. 23, death of Col. Fred A. Barker, postmaster since 1895, aged sixty-two years.....Jean P Howes made an

automatic fire alarm register for the fire station.....Feb. 14, death of Solomon F. Merrill, aged seventy-seven years.....Feb. 21, the nomination of Gen. Jerry P. Wellman to be postmaster of Keene sent to the senate by President McKinley.....Young Men's Christian Association canvassers secured subscriptions amounting to $20,000, for the purpose of raising its debt.....Feb. 16, J. Fred Whitcomb, Jr., and Frank N. Barker started for the Klondike; Mr. Whitcomb was accidentally shot, May 25, and buried with full Masonic rites, at Windy Arm, Tagish lake, Alaska, aged twenty-five years.....March 4, death of John B. Fisher, aged sixty-five.....March 4, Ladies' Exchange, Colony's block, suffered total destruction by fire, and the stock in trade of other merchants was injured.....March 17, city councils accepted the resignation of City Clerk Jerry P. Wellman, and Frank H. Whitcomb was elected to fill the vacancy.....April 1, Postmaster Wellman entered upon his duties, with Walter B. Richardson as head clerk.....May 3, death of John L. Britton, aged ninety-three years.....May 5, city councils granted Superintendent Babbidge a leave of absence and elected John A. Denison acting superintendent of water works, sewers and drains.....May 7, Company L, First New Hampshire Volunteers, 100 men, under Captain Paul F. Babbidge, left for the Spanish-American war..... May 8, death of Oscar G. Nims, aged fifty-two years.....June 6, city councils accepted the Henry Colony house on West street, with alterations to make it convenient for a library building, from Edward C. Thayer.....Citizens raised money by subscription for immediate use of the soldiers of Company L, at Camp Thomas, Chickamauga, Ga.....June 10, death of John A. Batchelder, aged sixty-seven years.....South Keene mills leased to William C. H. Badger of Boston.....June 25, high wind and storm; James S. Taft's house damaged by the breaking off of a big elm tree.....July 1, Cheshire County Savings bank established.....July 4, death of Edward C. Thayer, aged seventy years; and death of Edward Gustine, aged seventy-eight years.....The old Beaver street tannery demolished to make room for dwelling houses.....July 31, in Chattanooga, Tenn., death of Sergeant Darwin M. Aldrich, Co. L, First New Hampshire Volunteers, aged twenty-six years.....Aug. 2, first commercial incandescent lights installed in Nims Brothers' market on West street.....Aug. 23, death of Charles E. Joslin, aged fifty years.....A Bundy time recorder placed in the postoffice.....Sept. 2, large barns on the A. J. Williams place, Winchester street, destroyed during a severe thunder storm..... Sept. 13, 5,000 people greeted the return of Company L, First New Hampshire Volunteers, with fireworks, bonfires and a hot supper at the K. L. G. armory.....Sept. 28, east line of Main street, between Church and Roxbury streets, straightened and concrete walks renewed and enlarged.....Sept. 30, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scripture celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary, aged ninety-one and eighty-nine years respectively.....Oct. 8, death of William R. Bradbury, of Company L, at the hospital in Concord; aged twenty years.....Oct. 9, death of Jerry F. McCarthy, struck by an engine, near the Fitchburg repair shops, aged twenty-four.....Frog pond near the Symonds place, on West street, filled in and drain constructed.....Oct. 15, death of Chauncey B. Billings, aged

eighty-nine years.....Oct. 18, 160th anniversary of the formation of the First Congregational church.....John P. Rust fitted up the old Indurated Paper Company's factory for a pail shop.....Nov. 6, body of Ira E. Chase, aged sixty, found on the west bank of the Ashuelot river, near the shooting range, death being the result of exposure.....Cycle path from Pearl street to Maple avenue was constructed and William H. Woodward deeded to the city the rounding corner at Maple and Park avenues..... Nov. 14, Ladies' Charitable Society held its eighty-third annual meeting. .....Nov. 9, death of Rufus L. Parker, aged seventy-three years.....Nov. 17, city councils voted to purchase a portable stone crusher.....Nov. 27, extraordinary snow storm rages all day.....Stone watering trough placed at the foot of Beech hill, on Roxbury street.....Nov. 28, citizens held a peace jubilee on the acceptance by Spain of the terms of peace laid down by President McKinley.....Dec. 5 and 6, great snow storm and hurricane, with much damage to trees and buildings.....Dec. 14, death of Mrs. Roena Shelley, aged one hundred and two years, eight months and twenty-five days.....Charles H. Fairfield completed his ice pond, on upper Elm street.....Dec. 15, curfew petition rejected by the city councils.....Dec. 15, death of Jotham A. French, aged sixty-four years.....Dec. 17, Van C. Emerson expired from disease of the heart, at the head of Central square, aged fifty-three years.....Dec. 24, death of Hosea Foster, aged eighty-nine years.

1899.

George H. Eames, mayor.....Jan. 2, severely cold, 42° below zero at West Keene.....Jan. 5, death of Jonas Parker, aged eighty-three years, and of Jonathan G. Tyler, aged eighty-one years.....Feb. 4, death of William W. Parker, aged seventy-four years.....Feb. 13, heavy snow storm, blocking railroads throughout New England, worst blizzard in Keene since 1888.....Feb. 28, Thayer library building dedicated; a gift of $5,000 received from Mrs. Thayer and Miss Chapin, the income to be used for the purchase of books.....March 1, death of ex-Mayor George W. McDuffee, aged fifty-eight years.....March 10, Rev. Octavius Applegate, Jr., resigned as rector of St. James' church.....Rev. Archibald McCord resigned pastorate of Second Congregational church, to take effect Oct. 1.....March 20, Cheshire Chair Company's storehouse burned; loss about $15,000..... March 17, Rev. William G. Poor resigned as pastor of the First Congregational church.....March 22, New Hampshire Sentinel appeared as an illustrated centennial number, and the Sentinel Printing Company issued an exact reproduction of the first paper, issued March 23, 1799.....March 26, death of Samuel A. Gerould, Jr., aged seventy-eight years.....Beedle's Military band organized.....March 21, Reuben Hyland completed fifty years of continuous railway service.....April 6, death of Edwin C. Aldrich, aged seventy-nine years.....May 7, Rev. Alfred H. Wheeler takes charge of St. James' parish and conducts the services.....May 12, Sunday street sprinkling authorized to be done before the hour of morning services.....May 16, death of Elisha Ayer, aged seventy-eight years.....May 28, death of Frederick L. Pitcher, aged sixty years.....Rev. Edward A. Renouf, D. D.,

presented a large set of coins to the Keene High school.....Portrait of David Nims turned over to the trustees of the public library by the city.....May 31, Mrs. Louis Castor (aged thirty-seven) shot down by her husband, the first murder in Keene in over twenty years.....June 1, councils offered a reward for the apprehension of Louis Castor.....June 8, Louis Castor surrendered himself voluntarily to Sheriff Tuttle after meeting his brother and Rev. A. H. Wheeler.....June 15, control of the public library placed in the hands of the trustees.....June 21, Miss Myra F. Southworth appointed librarian of the Keene Public Library.....July 3, three incendiary fires occurred during the night.....July 6, corner stone of St. James' parish house laid with an appropriate ceremony.....July 20, contract executed between the city and the Keene Gas Light Company for fifty-two arc and 100 incandescent electric lights, for a term of six years.....August, underground conduits constructed by the New England Telephone Company.....Diamond Match shop opened in the Beaver mills.....Aug. 11, death of Deidamia Allen, aged ninety-nine years, three months and twenty-seven days, a pensioner of the war of 1812.....Aug. 17, city councils adopted an ordinance under the new plumbing law, and appointed Paul F Babbidge the first inspector of plumbing.....Beaver brook cleared out and considerable gain made in grade, at an expense of about $700..... Sept. 3, death of Timothy Kelleher, aged sixty-seven years, caused by being overcome by smoke during a fire in his house which occurred on Aug. 31.....Dynamo and water motor set up in high school building and connected with a complete working model of an electric railway and with incandescent lamps, by Principal Ray.....Sept. 8, Col. Henry E. Clark's farm buildings destroyed by fire caused by lightning; loss about $10,000. .....Sept. 22, Rev. Howard Billman called to the pulpit of the Second Congregational church.....Sept. 24, Beaver mills dryhouse, with a large quantity of staves and pails, destroyed by fire.....Sept. 25, Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel Hayward celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage..... Sept. 26, seventeen blasts blown on Beaver mills whistle in honor of the arrival of Admiral Dewey in New York harbor aboard the flagship Olympia, followed by the ringing of the courthouse and church bells, etc., which continued one hour.....Oct. 10, fifty-fifth session of the Grand Encampment and the state Rebekah assembly, and on Oct. 11, the fifty-sixth annual session of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, I. O. O. F., held in Keene.....Nov. 23, St. James' parish house dedicated with religious and social exercises.....Hon. John T. Abbott resigned as judge of probate..... Dec. 5, Rev. Edward Payson Drew installed pastor of the First Congregational church.....Dec. 7, city councils adopted an ordinance providing for a highway commission.....Dec. 8, John E. Allen nominated by Governor Rollins as judge of probate for Cheshire county.....Dec. 25, death of Amos B. Heywood, aged seventy-five years.

1900.

Austin A. Ellis, mayor.....Jan. 10, water supply limited, and Button steam fire engine used to pump water from the Ashuelot river into the Court street main.....Jan. 24, death of Jehiel Harlow, aged eighty years.

.....Mrs. Susan King Perkins presented a memorial altar to St. James' church for the new parish house, and it was consecrated on Feb. 2..... Feb. 3, Deluge Hose Company presented First Assistant Engineer Edward P. Carrigan with a gold watch and chain.....Feb. 13, water ten and one-half inches higher than known since 1869; two inches of rain and melting snow and ice raised the Ashuelot river and tributaries above high water mark, meadows adjacent being overflowed and fences covered, and stages compelled to take roundabout routes.....Feb. 15, board of mayor and aldermen accepted resignation of Alderman Samuel Patrick and ordered the selectmen of ward 2 to issue a warrant for a meeting of the inhabitants of that ward to fill the vacancy.....March 20, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel E. Hall celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding.....March 31, Mr. and Mrs. Willard J. Sawyer celebrated their golden wedding.....April 18, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Brooks celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage.....April 19, Dennis Donovan, aged ten years, fell from a frail raft and perished in deep water on the meadows near his home on Butler court.....May 2, Eric J. Beliveau, aged nine years, drowned in Giffin & Dana's mill pond.....May 3, Union school district voted to enlarge the Lincoln school lot by the purchase of sixty square rods of land for $600, from Silas Hardy.....May 10, Union district voted to build a new Lincoln school building at an expense of $13,000.....May 13, twenty-fifth anniversary of the dedication of the Baptist church of Keene (the third which the Baptists had occupied) appropriately observed at the morning service.....May 22, hearing held on the petition for the widening of West street to preserve the Cooke elm; Mrs. Mary Pratt Cooke Nash waived her right to claim land damage.....May 23, Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Gould celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding.....May 30, Ashuelot Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, rededicated the second burial place of the early settlers of Keene, a part of the Henry O. Spaulding farm, in West Keene, and erected a boulder, with appropriate ceremonies. .....June 8, Social Friends Lodge, A. F. & A. M., celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary, and Rev. Josiah L. Seward, D. D., delivered a brief historical address.....June 27, anxiety felt for Rev. and Mrs. Frank M. Chapin of Keene, for twenty years past missionaries in China, on account of the Boxer uprising.....Waring system of sewers ordered constructed through several streets to Leverett street, at a cost of about $1,700..... June 20, death of Sylvester Spaulding, aged seventy-six years.....July 1, Boston & Maine railroad assumed the management of the Fitchburg railroad.....Trinity Cycle Company commenced the manufacture of automobiles.....July 9, city councils appropriated $1,700 for a new boiler and for repairs to renew the disabled Button steam fire engine.....July 21, Cheshire Chair Company's storehouse again destroyed by fire, loss $10,000.....Aug. 17, death of Leston E. Mason, aged forty-seven years..... Sept. 7, death of Charles K. Colony, aged seventy-nine years.....Sept. 8, Keene Electric railway completed and first car arrived over the road..... West street bridge built in 1837 by Aaron Wilson and Oren Dickinson for the sum of $1,288, dismantled to give place to an iron structure.....

Samuel Wadsworth placed the height of Monadnock mountain at an altitude of 3,166 feet.....October, Joseph Chase presented the city with a quitclaim deed of his interest in that part of his farm called the North cemetery.....Nov. 21, new iron bridge on West street given a severe test with a loaded electric car and the passage over blocks of wood of the fifteen-ton road roller.....Dec. 12, Gurnsey Brothers & Co. move into the new bakery building on Church street.....Dec. 22, death of Asa Cole, aged ninety-six years.....New mill of the Faulkner & Colony Manufacturing Company completed, having a capacity of over 4,000 spindles.....City paid the Wrought Iron Bridge Company the sum of $9,946.14, for the South Keene and West street bridges.....Population of Keene: Ward 1, 2,488; ward 2, 1,896; ward 3, 1,926; ward 4, 1,384; ward 5, 1,471; total, 9,165.

1901.

Francis A. Perry, mayor.....Opening of the twentieth century observed in Keene by appropriate exercises. At midnight a national salute was fired and services held in the several churches and in Masonic hall..... Harry T. Kingsbury designed and built a new automobile, propelled by a naphtha motor, at the Wilkins Toy Company's works.....Jan. 2, the South Keene Company sold the Hale mills to the Fred B. Pierce Company.....Bronze tablet placed in the Unitarian church to accompany the memorial window previously erected, in memory of the seventy-one founders of that society.....Jan. 17, Steamobile Company of America voted an exemption from taxation.....Patrick Dee resigned his position as roadmaster in charge of the Ashuelot division of the Boston & Maine railroad after forty-five years of active service.....A severe epidemic of scarlet fever, which commenced late in January, continued three months, prostrated business, interfered with the work of the schools, necessitated the closing of churches, schools, the library and city hall; one hundred and eighty-one cases were reported to the board of health, of which number twenty-two died; quarantine expenses incurred aggregated about $4,200.....Feb. 8, death of Rev. Stephen G. Abbott, aged eighty-one years.....Feb. 10, death of Simeon Gould, aged seventy-eight years.....Feb. 11, death of William H. Brooks, aged seventy-two years, and of John G. Lesure, aged fifty-five years.....Feb. 11, small pox appeared in Keene, but was confined by police patrol and rigid quarantine measures to two cases; two cases of small pox and three of varioloid only were reported during the year. .....Feb. 21, death of Gordis D. Harris, aged seventy-six years.....Feb. 21, Gardner C. Hill, M. D., appointed city agent for vaccination with power to appoint assistants and an order passed by the city government that they proceed in the matter according to law.....Feb. 27, death of Luther P. Alden, aged seventy-four years.....Feb. 28, death of Simon Carr, aged eighty-three years.....March 12, death of Alexander H. Grimes, aged seventy-one years.....March 17, churches reopened for services by permission of the board of health.....March 21, over 180 signers petitioned for the removal of the Cooke elm standing in West street.....March 26, $1,600 additional appropriated by Union school district for the purpose of

completing the Lincoln school building; old Lincoln schoolhouse ordered sold at public auction by a committee.....March 30, Capt. S. Fletcher Dutton of Keene appointed by the president to the office of captain in the regular army as assistant quartermaster of subsistence.....March 31, city hall lot enclosed by a fence to confirm title to land.....April 8, high school reopened, and April 15, grammar grades reopened in the high school building.....April 8, death of Charles Scripture, aged ninety-four years.....April 11, trustees of Keene Public Library accepted a gift of books from Messrs. Robert S. and Richard W. Hale of Boston, in memory of their father, the late Hon. Geo. S. Hale of Keene and Boston.....April 14, Rev. M. C. Pendexter, of Grace Methodist Episcopal church, closed a pastorate of five years, and Rev. Jesse M. Durrell appointed to the charge.....Rev. George L. Thompson, for three and one-half years a resident of Keene, resigned as pastor of the Universalist church to take effect May 1.....April 22, after a public hearing the mayor and aldermen voted to give the petitioners for the removal of the Cooke elm leave to withdraw.....April 29, death of Dr. George R. Dinsmoor, aged fifty-nine years, eleven months..... May 1, death of ex-Mayor Asa Smith, aged seventy-seven years.....May 2, Roller Bearing & Equipment Company granted an exemption from taxation.....May 7, Francis C. Faulkner appointed railroad commissioner by Governor Jordan.....May 14, sixth annual meeting of the New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs held in the Unitarian church.....May 16, Fred B. Pierce Company granted an exemption from taxation.....Stone drinking fountain accepted by the city to be placed on Court street, the gift of Mrs. Edward C. Thayer.....May 29, funeral of William S. Briggs, at the Unitarian church, his death having occurred at Montpelier, Vt., on May 27, at the age of eighty-three years and eight months.....June 14, death of Caleb T. Buffum, aged eighty-one years.....June 15, formal opening of the new Wilkins laundry on Proctor court, attended by over 500 people.....June 20, Alderman Daniel C. Cahalane resigns.....July 3, mayor and alderman allow $1,200 to the board of health for extra services during the scarlet fever epidemic.....July 4, monument erected by Francis O. Nims, over the grave of Keene's first town clerk, David Nims, in Washington street cemetery.....July 17, Elvin P. Priest fatally burned by explosion of gasoline at Steamobile works.....July 23, Alderman Oscar H. Fay elected, and he took his seat on the 29th.....July 28, Holbrook Grocery Company's wholesale warehouse damaged by fire; loss about $45,000.....August, Register of Deeds Buffum began the reindexing of the Cheshire county real estate records.....Aug. 22, city councils voted to purchase lands in Roxbury of Charles Giffin, Edward Cota, Patrick Donahue, and George A. Hall, adjoining Woodward pond, and a lot on Beech hill of Mrs. Charles H. Fairfield, for the sum of $3,825.....Sept. 5, Rev. Edward A. Renouf, D. D., presented to the city the police benevolent fund of $500, which was accepted.....City councils ordered a new steel bridge to be placed over Beaver brook to connect Woodland and Greenlawn cemeteries..... Sept. 17, Mayor Perry requested the suspension of business and that services be held on Thursday, Sept. 19, in memory of the late President William McKinley.....Sept. 19, the city councils adjourned till the next

evening in honor of the memory of President McKinley.....Sept. 20, councils voted to purchase an acre and forty-eight rods of land lying between Woodland and Greenlawn cemeteries of the heirs of Pierre Couillard, for $250.....Oct. 9, field day of two Vermont and two New Hampshire commanderies of Knights Templar, in Keene, with Mt. Horeb Commandery of Concord as guests of Hugh de Payens Commandery of Keene.....Oct. 8, 9, and 10, sixteenth annual convention of the Christian Endeavorers of New Hampshire held in Keene.....Oct. 22, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Davis celebrated their golden wedding.....November, Swedish Lutheran church organized.....Nov. 5, Holbrook Grocery Company presented a set of dishes to the firemen of Keene.....Nov. 15, Music hall in Lane's new block, corner of Church and Main streets, opened to the public by the Keene Chorus Club, seating capacity of the hall about 500.....Nov. 21, death of Edward Joslin, aged ninety-one years, seven months.....Nov. 25, death of William L. Davis, aged seventy-eight years.....Nov. 29, Henry R. Parker's mill and wood yard burned, loss about $700.....Dec. 3, heaviest snow storm since 1888.....Dec. 5, death of Lafayette Weeks, aged seventy-seven years.....Dec. 19, Mrs. Harriet Webster Towne fatally burned at her home, aged ninety-four years.....Sixty buildings erected in Keene during the year.

1902.

Francis A. Perry, mayor.....Jan. 14, death of Gen. Simon G. Griffin, aged seventy-seven years.....Jan. 23, Rev. John E. Smith resigned pastorate of the Baptist church after nearly five years of service.....Jan. 29, death of Clark F. Rowell, aged sixty-seven years.....Feb. 10, John P. Rust's pail factory burned; loss $30,000.....Feb. 26, after a public hearing Union school district lines were defined and additional territory was added on the easterly side.....March 1, Fairfield dam gave way; loss $500; about ten feet of water stood above the enbankment where Court street crosses the Kate Tyler ravine.....March 3, culvert at the Kate Tyler ravine was carried away, and afterwards repaired at an expense of $1,069.17.....March 24, Baptist society voted to extend a call to Rev. Joseph Walther, of Holden, Mass., to become its pastor; Mr. Walther accepted the call and began his labors on Sunday, May 4.....April 10, trustees of the Elliot City Hospital accepted a memorial gift of $12,000 from the heirs of the late Edward Joslin, for the erection of a home for nurses.....April 21, Ashuelot Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, unveiled a large granite boulder at the corner of Main and Baker streets, to mark the road taken by the patriots on April 21, 1775, in response to the Lexington alarum.....April 28, death of David Knight, aged eighty-nine years.....May 1, death of Arba T. Stearns aged seventy-seven years.....May 6, 7, 8, ninety-third annual meeting of the general association of Congregational and Presbyterian churches of New Hampshire held in Keene.....May 15, Cheshire Tannery property sold to John P. Rust.....May 18, Young Men's Christian Association observed the eighteenth anniversary of the founding of the local branch.....New creamery built on the Holbrook farm, near the entrance to Goose pond on the

old Surry road.....May 26, 27, 28, first convention of the Keene Chorus Club held in city hall.....June 5, city councils authorized the issue of $25,000 in bonds for Echo lake water works extension via South Keene; bonds sold for $25,978; masonry dam built on Munsell lot, 135 feet long and nineteen feet above the bed of Roaring brook to contain 2,500,000 gallons of water.....June 8, firemen of Keene held appropriate memorial services and decorated the graves of those who died in service since the department was organized on its present basis.....June 16, fire at Beaver mills, loss on finished pails and packages about $3,000.....June 18, ladder truck No. 2 added to the apparatus of the Hook and Ladder Company; cost, $1,250.....June 19, city councils voted to print the History of the Town of Keene.....July 1, free mail delivery service established for South Keene and Swanzey Factory; house numbering system extended to meet requirements.....July 12, incendiary fire destroyed Giffin's mills; loss $15,000; George E. Hopkins confessed to setting the fire..... Sept. 4, city councils accepted the private fire alarm system used by firemen.....Sept. 16, death of Leonard J. Tuttle, aged seventy-one years..... Sept. 19, Daughters of the American Revolution unveiled a bronze tablet at the Thayer Library building to the memory of the soldiers of the American Revolution from Keene; impressive services held and tablet formally accepted by the city.....Oct. 16, councils voted to grade River street to receive the sewer extension ordered through River and Woodburn streets.....Nov. 14, 200 business men and citizens held a banquet at the Cheshire House in honor of the completion of J. P. Rust's new brick pail factory on Water street; business men passed resolutions in the interest of a permanent board of trade.....H. W. Hubbard removed to his new brick machine shop on Emerald street.....Nov. 25, Boys' Club of the Methodist Episcopal church formally opened its room in the parsonage on Elm street.....Nov. 28, water turned into the city mains from the new intercepting reservoir and pipe line via South Keene; new addition to the Echo lake system constructed at a cost of $26,300.....Dec. 4, city councils voted to purchase eleven acres of French land and 160 acres of the Cota farm in Roxbury, bordering on Roaring brook, extending a mile down the brook from land already owned by the city, at an expense of $1,620; total land owned by the city in Roxbury about 1,082 acres. .....Public library, city hall and fire station heated with wood from the city's lands in Roxbury, on account of the coal strike.

1903.

James S. Taft, mayor.....Jan. 8, farm buildings of Elmer T. Morse burned on Winchester street, with eight cows, a horse and three pigs; loss estimated at $3,000.....Jan. 17, strike at the C. B. Lancaster shoe factory.....Jan. 23, shoe factory closed.....Jan. 23, Mayor Taft offered a reward of $1,000 for the apprehension of the person who had recently been setting fires in Keene.....Jan. 23, Rev. Howard Billman resigned as acting pastor of the Second Congregational church to take effect on April 1.....Feb. 3, Keene Commercial Club organized; Fred B. Pierce, president; constitution and by-laws adopted.....Feb. 4, death of Franklin

L. Howe, aged sixty-six years.....Feb. 7, Josephine, infant daughter of William Gilbo, suffocated by a fire on Douglass street.....Feb. 9, Keene Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, organized at the house of Charles G. Shedd on Marlboro street.....Early in February local coal dealers began booking orders for anthracite coal for the first time since early in previous December.....Feb. 16, twenty-five special police officers commissioned by the mayor and aldermen on account of the shoemakers' strike.....Feb. 17, shoe factory reopened as a free shop.....Water main ordered extended through Eastern avenue at an expense of $3,200..... March 5, city councils voted to exempt Charles L. Russell & Sons from taxation on a proposed two-story brick manufactory, etc., not exceeding a valuation of $50,000.....March 8, death of John L. Davis, aged ninety-three years.....March 11, death of George Burnap, aged eighty-four years.....March 14, death of Col. Edwin O. Upham, aged forty-three years.....March 20, death of J. Mason Reed, aged seventy-six years..... March 23, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Collins celebrated their golden wedding..... March 26, death of Francis C. Faulkner, aged fifty years.....Union school district authorized a committee to see what arrangements could be made to secure the Coolidge lot, next north of the city hall, or some other suitable lot for a new high school building.....March 29, body of an infant found in the Vigneau ravine on upper Court street.....March 30, death of William Rice, aged eighty-one years.....April 4, Carrie E. Read elected librarian of the Keene Public Library.....April 13, a son of Elmore W. Jennison lost his life in Woodland cemetery pond.....Thirty representatives of several clubs and societies met at the council rooms and appointed committees to prepare for the joint celebration of the 4th of July and the 150th anniversary of the founding of the town of Keene..... April 16, street sprinkling tax reduced to $2.....April 17, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the Keene Light Guard battalion observed at the Cheshire House; Mr. W. H. Prentiss gave a historical sketch of the battalion.....Rev. Jesse M. Durrell of Keene appointed to the Dover district as presiding elder and the Rev. Joseph E. Robins assigned to the pastorate of Grace Methodist Episcopal church in Keene. .....May 2, Elliot City Hospital realized $738.75 through the generosity of Denman Thompson from the presentation of "The Old Homestead" at the city hall.....May 9, death of Barzilla Richardson, aged seventy years. .....May 10, death of John D. Dunbar, aged eighty years.....May 12, liquor license law adopted in Keene by a plurality of eighty votes..... May 13, city councils voted to require license holders to pay the maximum amounts provided by the license law for liquor licenses issued in Keene till 1907.....May 25, aldermen voted to widen and straighten lower Main street.....May 25, shoe strike officially declared off.....June 4, city councils voted to appropriate $2,000 for new stage, scenery and repairs of city hall, and added three and seven-tenths miles to the frontage now covered by the street sprinkling service, making a total of fourteen and seven-tenths miles frontage to be sprinkled.....June 11, death of Eugene A. Whipple, aged seventy years.....June 14, firemen's memorial Sunday observed by the fire department at St. Bernard's

church.....June 15, Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Johnson celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage.....June 16, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel D. Bill observed their golden wedding.....June 22, forty-six scholars received diplomas at city hall, the largest class which had completed the high school course.....License commissioners restricted territory within which liquor licenses would be granted.....June 24, Second Congregational church voted to extend a call to Rev. Willis A. Hadley of Southbridge, Mass., to become its pastor; Mr. Hadley commenced his labors Sept. 6. .....June 29, Keene Chapter, No. 1, Sons of the American Revolution, received its charter and observed the occasion at the armory with a reception, speaking and a social gathering.....July 3, electric railway opened its Swanzey line to the public.....July 4, Independence day and the 150th anniversary of the town of Keene celebrated together.....July 11, death of Alfred T. Batchelder, aged fifty-nine years.....July 13, board of education voted to establish two kindergarten schools, one at the Tilden and one at the Elliot building.....July 21, some twenty-five veterans of Company A, Second New Hampshire Volunteers, celebrated the forty-second anniversary of the battle of Bull Run.....July 25, fire occurred in the water works cellar under the city hall; loss $200.....July 26, fire broke out in the centre of Clarke's block, at the close of the First church services; loss about $5,000.....July 30, death of Francis Davis, aged seventy-nine years.....Aug. 24, death of John Humphrey, aged sixty-eight years..... Sept. 8, Edward Joslin Home for Nurses opened for public inspection..... Sept. 9, city hall opened to the public, with electric lights, new stage and scenery.....Sept 12, death of Mary E. Wilson Sherwood of New York, in her seventy-seventh year.....Sept. 23, Gov. N. J. Bachelder, members of his staff and invited guests entertained at the Country Club grounds..... Sept. 29, death of Dallas M. Pollard, aged fifty-nine years.....Oct. 1, Rev. Willis A. Hadley installed pastor of the Second Congregational church.....Oct. 3, Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Keyes observed their golden wedding.....Oct. 24, second fire occurred in Clarke's block.....Oct. 27, 28, Unitarians of New Hampshire held state convention in the Unitarian church on Washington street.....Oct. 29, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Lettenmayer celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage.....Nov. 1, Miss Read retired from the public library and Miss Maud E. Bloomingdale of Syracuse, N. Y., assumed the duties of librarian.....A section of macadam on lower Main street surfaced with screened branch gravel.....New bridge over the branch completed and the electric road removed its rails from the branch stone bridge.....Nov. 8, Mr. and Mrs. David B. Stearns celebrated their golden wedding.....Nov. 9, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Leet given a reception at the Methodist parsonage on the fifty-fifth anniversary of their marriage.....Dec. 1, 2, 3, state board of agriculture and Dairymen's Association held a series of meetings in city hall.

1904.

James S. Taft, mayor.....Jan. 1, death of Dea. George P. Drown, aged seventy-five years.....Jan. 4, trial of Malachi Barnes, accused of murder of Asahel Dunton at Sullivan, opened; trial ended Jan. 6; he was convicted

and sentenced to state's prison for life.....Jan. 5, Charles H. Hersey elected for the twentieth municipal term as auditor.....Jan. 10, missionary rally held at First Congregational church in honor of Charles A. Stanley, a graduate of Oberlin Theological seminary, who was to be sent as a missionary to China, under the auspices of the First church.....Jan. 15, Ladies' Minstrels gave an entertainment at city hall, for the benefit of the Hospital Aid Society; net proceeds $460.....Box manufacturers of Keene opened a selling agency in New York city.....Jan. 21, board of highway commissioners abolished and authority relating to highways vested in the board of mayor and aldermen.....Spiral stairway for fire escape from First Congregational church completed; fire escape attached to Warren's block, it being occupied in part by four schools of Union school district.....The W. P. Chamberlain Company purchased Gerould's block on Central square and two houses fronting on Winter street, for the purpose of reconstructing the block for its own use.....Feb. 4, Australian ballot system adopted for future municipal elections.....William H. H. Beal, connected with the clothing trade here for thirty years, retired from business.....Feb. 7, death of Roswell T. Wood, aged eighty-one years.....Feb. 11, death of Walter J. Wheeler, aged seventy years..... Feb. 18, death of John Carpenter while on his way home at noon, aged seventy years.....Feb. 18, city councils appointed a committee to investigate the city's title to the Coolidge lot, adjoining the city hall lot on the north; to formulate a plan pertaining to the title, use and disposition of the lot; Ashuelot National bank, residuary devisee under the last will of Henry O. Coolidge, notified the city on March 17, that it had entered by its attorney upon the tract, conveyed by Mr. Coolidge upon conditions, for breach of those conditions, and that it required possession; and on the same date the city denied the right of the bank to make such claim and refused to give up possession of the property; the suit being brought in a friendly spirit to determine the city's title.....Frost six feet deep in the city streets, causing much trouble with water and sewer pipes..... Feb. 20, death of George Tufts, aged seventy-four years.....Feb. 21, death of Ira D. Lewis, aged fifty-three years.....Feb. 23, death of James O'Leary, for thirty years identified with the volunteer fire department, aged fifty-five years.....Feb. 24, death of John E. Stowell, aged fifty-four years..... Feb. 26, Union school district, established March 14, 1865, enlarged by annexing the suburban, or city district; two houses on Winchester road in Swanzey annexed, for school purposes only.....March 5, death of Dr. Aaron R. Gleason, aged sixty-nine years.....George F Stone of Keene and John H. Smith of Milford succeeded Nichols & Wardwell in the grocery business.....March 9, death of Nathaniel A. Barlow, aged seventy-eight years.....March 11, Thomas J. O'Connor run over by a locomotive and instantly killed near the passenger station, aged forty-six years.....Owing to consolidation of school districts a uniform rate was assessed throughout the city for the first time since the formation of the High School Associated district in 1853.

Sesquicentennial Celebration.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF A TOWN GOVERNMENT.

On Saturday, July 4, 1903, Keene held the most successful celebration in her history, when the 150th anniversary of the formation of the town government and Independence Day were fittingly observed. In happy contrast to the almost incessant rain of the centennial celebration of 1853, the day was perfect, with clear skies, moderate temperature and a light, refreshing breeze. The main streets of the city and its Central square and business section were in gala attire. The public buildings and business blocks were elaborately decorated, and along the line of march of the procession private residences were handsomely trimmed, the decorations being practically continuous.

An immense crowd of people was present, numbering, it is estimated, from ten to twelve thousand in addition to the population, making over twenty thousand people in the city. Owing to the width of the streets and the orderly character of the people, there was no unpleasant crowding, and the throng conducted itself in an entirely orderly manner, the total absence of drunkenness and rowdyism being notable.

The day was a particularly fortunate one in its freedom from accidents of all kinds, including those usually due to explosives. No injury of any account was reported. The ambulance was stationed during the morning at city hall, with horses attached, ready for emergencies, and in the evening, during the fireworks, near Elisha F. Lane's residence on Main street.

All the features of the day passed off most successfully. Notable among these, from a spectacular point of view, were the parade in the morning, the living flag by the children in the afternoon and the fireworks in the evening.

A concert was given by the City band of Rutland at the driving park at 7 o'clock, and on the platform on Central park the American band of Claremont played about an hour early in the evening. The Knights of Pythias band of Bellows Falls also played on Main street and on Church street in the afternoon and evening. Among the bands that of the L. J. Colony Chair Co. of Munsonville, was noticeable for its good playing and full quota of instruments.

The Fourth was preceded by a general celebration by the young people and their elders which began at dark and continued until towards midnight. Firecrackers, bombs, tin horns and all sort of noise producers

were everywhere in evidence. The city was well policed in all quarters and there were no demonstrations resulting in disturbances. The request that bonfires be omitted on account of the decorations was enforced without difficulty, and on the whole the night before was one of the quietest and most orderly for years.

The celebration of the day began at sunrise with the ringing of bells and firing of guns. At 10.30 came the grand parade, with its beautiful floats, marching bodies and trades displays, lasting until noon. At 1 o'clock there was a ball game at the Keene Driving park and at 3 o'clock another on the Island street grounds. At 4 o'clock came the 150th anniversary exercises, at 7 band concerts were given, and at 8.30 the fireworks display took place at the driving park.

The beginning of the Fourth of July celebration was in a suggestion of Mrs. Wm. F. Holbrook that the various women's clubs join in organizing a parade of the school children. Mr. Thomas C. Rand in an article in the Sentinel several months before had urged the celebration of the sesquicentennial. From these two beginnings, taken up by the city government and committees of the citizens, gradually grew the grand celebration of the day, with its many features.

THE PARADE.

The grand civic and military parade, which began at 10.45 and continued until 12.15, covering a route a mile and a half in length, was the finest ever given in Keene. The excellent organization, under Chief Marshal Babbidge and his efficient aids, was most commendable. While marching it took the line thirty minutes to pass a given point. A spectator counted over 1,300 persons in the line and 245 horses.

The features of the parade were the quality of the displays, which were of a high order, the variety of the exhibits, comprising many beautiful floats, an ingeniously fashioned engine of the railroad men, business men's displays and different types of marching bodies, such as militiamen, firemen, school boys, secret societies, workingmen's organizations, cowboys, Indians, etc. The following was the order of the parade:

Chief Marshal Paul F. Babbidge and aids, with company of mounted cowboys.

First division—Major E. M. Keyes, marshal, and aids. City band of Rutland, Vt. Keene Light Guard battalion. Battalion of school boys. Members of John Sedgwick Post, G. A. R., in carriage. Keene fire department, with apparatus. Sons of Veterans, including Camp General Griffin of Keene, Antrim Camp, Hillsboro Bridge Camp, Bennington (N. H.) Camp and Peterboro Camp.

Second division—Capt. M. V. B. Clark, marshal, and aids. Knights of Pythias band of Bellows Falls, Vt. Uniform Rank, Knights of Pythias. Wood and Chapman's drum corps. Union Canadienne Francaise, with officers, aged and prominent members in carriages. L. J. Colony Chair Company band of Munsonville. Foresters of America, including Court Ashuelot of Hinsdale (with drum corps), Court Winchester of Winchester, Keene Matchless drum corps, Court Minnewawa of Marlboro, and Court

General Wilson of Keene (with guests from Bellows Fall and Winchendon). Keene Commandery of United Order of Golden Cross. Independent Order of Red Men, Keene.

Third division—John F. Clark, marshal, and aids. Wheeler's band of Bellows Falls. Keene Circle No. 83, Allied Metal Mechanics. Old Homestead Lodge No. 319, International Association of Machinists. Mount Monadnock Lodge No. 371, National Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders of America.

Fourth division—Dr. Burton C. Russell, marshal, and aids. Historic and society floats, and business men's exhibits, with American band of Claremont.

The parade was reviewed on Court street, near Mechanic, by the chief marshal, city government and prominent citizens.

In addition to a three hours' struggle between baseball nines representing the Boston & Maine railroad shops in Keene and Mechanicville (which was won by Mechanicville 20 to 15) and an eleven innings game between the Keene High school nine and the Marlboro town nine (which was won by Marlboro 10 to 3), the day was further enlivened by good contests in three classes of horse trotting, for purses of $200 in each race. The details of these events were published in the newspapers, at the time, but are omitted here as they lack permanent historical interest.

ANNIVERSARY EXERCISES.

The 150th anniversary exercises, held in Central park, were largely attended. A crowd filled the park and the sidewalks on Central square near by, while teams and automobiles took their places outside the park railing. Mayor Taft presided. A concert by children followed closely, making the two programs in reality one. The children also assisted in the anniversary celebration. The combined programs were as follows:

Chorus, "To Thee, O Country."
Invocation.....Rev. J. E. Robins, D. D.
Remarks.....Mayor J. S. Taft
Chorus, "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp."
Oration.....Rev. Josiah L. Seward, D. D.
Chorus, "Praise the Father."
Benediction.....Rev. E. A. Renouf, D. D.
Selection.....Band
Chorus, "Columbia the Gem of the Ocean."
Chorus, "Battle Hymn of the Republic."
"America."....Audience
Selection.....Band

In the north end of the park, facing the south, was a platform for the speakers, with a stand for the children in the rear. On the platform, besides the speakers, were the members of the city councils, ex-mayors of the city, the clergy, an adult chorus, the accompanists and the band. On the stand in the rear were the children arranged as a living flag.

The living flag was one of the really fine features of the day, and was a novelty. It was a representation of a flag composed of 350 children. The little people were arranged on a tier of seats extending twenty-five feet from base to top and seventy-two feet from end to end, making

a flag seventy-two feet long and twenty-five wide. The field was made up mostly of boys, who were dressed in blue, and forty-five of them held white stars fastened to wands. The stripes were made up of girls, who wore red capes and white skirts. As the children were seated they made a complete picture of a flag, seven red and six white stripes in the correct alternate order, and a blue field with forty-five white stars.

The children met in city hall and marched to the seats, making their appearance at 4.25 o'clock. They came on the seats in double file, the highest row first, marched up the center of the seats and separated, half going to the right and half to the left. Each row was preceded by and was in charge of two ladies who acted as guides or chaperons and who were seated at each end of each row. In all there were seven rows of about fifty in a row. The white skirts of the lowest row, which would have made a fourteenth stripe, were hidden by the occupants of the speakers' platform in front of them and the flag was perfect in appearance. It was a brilliant sight, one that the spectators appreciated and will never forget.

The flag was under the general charge of Mrs. W. F. Holbrook, who inaugurated the plan.

As inspiring as the sight of the flag was the singing of the children who composed it. In two choruses, "To Thee, O Country," and "Praise the Father," they were assisted by fifty adult voices, male and female, from the Keene Chorus Club. The rest of the choruses the young people sang alone. They were full of the spirit of the occasion and aroused the audience to hearty applause after every selection. They were under the direction of Mr. Nelson P. Coffin, the director of the Chorus Club, who achieved splendid results with them. At the same time it must not be forgotten that the basis was laid in the public schools, from which most of the children came.

Three accompanists aided in the choruses, Mrs. Berdia C. Huntress and Miss Florence Silsby on two pianos and Mr. E. H. Holbrook on an organ.

The exercises began at 4.45 and closed at 6.15. The remarks by the mayor were graceful and brief, and were greeted by a round of applause. He said:

"We are here today, not only to celebrate the birthday of our nation, but to commemorate another issue of the long ago, the founding of the city of Keene.

"As Keene was among the first of the pioneer towns to respond to the call of liberty, it is most fitting that as we call to mind the one, we remember the other.

"The purpose of our exercises today is largely educational; and the development of this plan has brought into a prominent place the children of our public schools. Through the inspiration of the hour we trust these children will better understand the true meaning of the day we celebrate; will have a deeper reverence for the things pertaining to the welfare of our cherished city.

"And may not we of maturer years catch this inspiration? Standing

at the junction of these magnificent streets bordered with stately elms, surrounded with institutions of learning and spires pointing Heavenward, may we not most fittingly call to mind the men whose lives and characters made possible the Keene of today."

From an anniversary point of view the chief event was the oration by Dr. Seward. Long residence in Keene and an intimate knowledge of its history enabled the speaker to do justice to the day and the place. He gave his fellow townsmen a discriminating, sympathetic and learned historical address, which was listened to closely by his hearers and was received with cordial approbation.

The band to furnish music for the above program was the City band of Rutland, Vt. Its two selections, the overture from "Poet and Peasant" and the popular two-step "Hiawatha," gave much pleasure.

The celebration was brought to a close with an exhibition of fireworks at the Keene Driving park, which attracted some seven thousand people.

The exhibition was given in the field southwest of the judges' stand and began at about 8.30 o'clock. The night was a magnificent one, the clear skies and bright moon adding much to the beauty of this closing feature of the celebration. The pyrotechnic display was a good one and was considered one of the best ever given in this city. It consisted of varied colored and floral shells, willows, cannon, tourbillions, serpentine rockets, Roman candles, whirlwinds, fountains and nine set pieces. During the exhibition colored lights were frequently used.

The first set piece read "1753 Keene 1903." The second piece was that of a magic scroll. The third piece was a display of hanging lights in various colors, 100 feet long, and was one of the prettiest and most effective illuminations of the evening. The fourth piece showed illuminated wheels propelled by magic fires with such rapidity as to form beautiful rainbow circles producing quick successions of brilliant colors. The fifth set piece showed an old-fashioned windmill. It consisted of large revolving arms and scrolls of colored lance jets. The sixth set piece was called "The Star of the Union" and was in crimson and blue colors. The next piece showed a kicking mule. The representation was a very good one, the comical performances of the animal provoking much laughter. The eighth piece represented a palm tree in various colors. The ninth showed "Good Night," the entire open space at the same time being illuminated by a blaze of color.

The electric road ran trains of from four to seven cars to and from the park as rapidly as possible from between 6 and 7 to 11 o'clock. The cars were packed to their utmost capacity and made trips once every half hour carrying from 1,000 to 1,500 an hour. Many barges and private carriages were also used. Nevertheless hundreds of people were obliged to walk to and from the park, Main street being lined with foot passengers from 7 o'clock until nearly 11. No accidents were reported. Many people, especially those having children, did not attempt to go to the park and a large number of families had private displays of fireworks.

DR. SEWARD'S ORATION.

Mr. Mayor and Citizens:

"My tongue, by inspiration taught,
Shall parables unfold:
Dark oracles, but understood,
And owned for truths of old,
Which we from sacred registers
Of ancient times have known,
And our forefathers' pious care
To us has handed down.
Let children learn the mighty deeds
Which God performed of old,
Which, in our younger years, we saw,
And which our fathers told.
Our lips shall tell them to our sons,
And they again to theirs,
That generations yet unborn
May teach them to their heirs."

A century and a half of the corporate existence of this municipality of Keene has passed. The ashes of the last of our forefathers who cleared the primeval forests and laid the foundations of Upper Ashuelot, the cradle of the later Keene, have long since mingled with their kindred dust. We come today to seek to recall their heroic deeds, their patient toil, and their exemplary virtues. If we would lift the veil which conceals from us their many daring exploits, their labors in subduing the wilderness, their consecrated efforts to maintain public worship, their fierce encounters with the savages, and their progress in municipal government, we shall find a large portion of this civic life shrouded in darkness. Here and there, the imperfect records of the town and the first church, together with the preserved traditions of aged residents, enable us to catch glimpses of the course of events and to weave something like a connected web of historical detail.

If a bird's-eye view of this immediate vicinity, in what geologists would call a recent geological age, could be reproduced for us, it would disclose a vast lake covering the beautiful valley in which we are. It extended on the north to the hills of Surry, with a bay reaching to the high lands of Alstead. Surry mountain was a beautiful promontory jutting into this lake from the northeast, which a bay reaching up what is now the Beaver brook valley separated from Beech hill. On the east, this lake reached to Beech hill and to the high hills of Roxbury and Marlboro, with bays reaching out towards what are now Marlboro village and East Swanzey. The southern boundary was the hills of Richmond and the western shore was on what we call the West mountain and the hills of Westmoreland and Surry. The outlet was by way of what we call the valley of the Ashuelot, into the valley of the Connecticut. The lake must have been a most beautiful sheet of water, about fifteen miles in length and from three to five miles in width. Evidences of its existence have been repeatedly discovered and described. Gradually the soft earth at the outlet was worn away and, little by little, the lake disappeared, until only traces of it were left.

The earliest inhabitants of this fair valley which succeeded the old

lake were the Ashuelot Indians. They were probably a branch of the great tribe of Pequots who occupied the valleys of the Connecticut and its tributaries. These earliest Indians, who gave their name to our river, a name which ought still to characterize our municipality, were not the same as those troublesome Indians who annoyed the first settlers of Upper Ashuelot. The latter found their way here from Canada and were induced to come by the French, who were opposed to the English in the European wars of that period. The struggle in Europe had its echoes in America, where the colonists of the two countries fought each other, until the great victory on the Heights of Abraham decided the long struggle in favor of the British government.

In order to understand the historical setting of the first settlement of this place, it is necessary to recur to certain facts. The territory granted to Gorges and Mason, on the 10th of August, 1622, and known as the Province of Maine, was to include all the land of New England between the Merrimac and Sagadahoc rivers and from the sea coast between their mouths to a line connecting points on the rivers, or in the continued direction of the general course of the rivers, three score miles from the mouths of each. It was then supposed that the rivers, both of them, flowed generally in an easterly direction. The grant of Massachusetts, to Sir Henry Roswell and others, March 19, 1627–8, confirmed to the grantees all the land three miles north of any and every part of the River Merrimac. On Nov. 7, 1629, the Council of Plymouth granted to Capt. John Mason, his heirs and assigns, "all that part of the mainland in New England lying upon the seacoast, beginning from the middle part of Merrimack river, and from thence to proceed northwards along the seacoast to Pascataqua river, and so forwards up within the said river and to the furtherest head thereof, and from thence northwestward, until three score miles be finished from the first entrance of Pascataqua river; also from Merrimack through the said river and to the furtherest head thereof, and so forward up into the lands westwards, until three score miles be finished; and from thence to cross over land to the three score miles end accompted from Pascataqua river," etc.

As a result of these indefinite, in fact impossible, boundary lines, which conflicted with the bounds of the Massachusetts patent, many conflicts arose between the settlers of the two provinces in regard to their rightful limits. Massachusetts claimed that the patent of Mason, properly construed, would not allow him a foot of land south or west of any part of the Merrimac. Consequently, in the year 1652, the general court of Massachusetts Bay appointed Captains Edward Johnson and Simon Willard as commissioners to ascertain the source of the Merrimac. Accompanied by two surveyors and some Indian guides, they proceeded to ascend that river. They followed the more easterly of the two streams which unite to form the Merrimac and arrived, on the 1st day of August, 1652, at the source of that stream, at the outlet of beautiful Lake Winipisiogee. Realizing the importance of their great discovery, they inscribed upon a rock, in the midst of the little stream, at the outlet of the lake, the letters E I, for Edward Johnson (I and J being formerly considered

as the same letter); S W, for Simon Willard; WP JOHN ENDICUT GOV, for Worshipful John Endicut (or Endecott), Governor. That 1st day of August, 1652, precisely 250 years ago, the 1st day of last August, an even century before Keene was incorporated, is a memorable date in New Hampshire annals. Acting upon this information, Massachusetts, for more than a century, not without rank protest, continued to lay claim to all that part of our state which is west of any part of the Merrimac river.

Now we are prepared to understand that problem which has puzzled so many, why this lovely valley of ours should have been first settled under the auspices of Massachusetts. It was because Massachusetts claimed this part of the state west of the Merrimac, in consequence of the construction which was put upon the meaning of words used in describing the boundary lines of the provinces in the old charters.

But the claims of Massachusetts were warmly and, in the end, successfully contested. It would be passing beyond the proper limits of this discourse to give the details of that controversy, so interesting to lawyers and historians. It will answer the purpose to say that, after many delays, it was decided by the king, in council, that the line between Massachusetts and New Hampshire should begin at a point three miles north of the mouth of the Merrimac, thence proceeding on a curved line, parallel to that river, to a point exactly north of Pawtucket Falls (which are in Lowell now), thence on a line due west to his majesty's other governments. I might add that the establishment of this line gave to the people of New Hampshire the notion of claiming, as a part of their province, much of the present territory of Vermont, a claim which they were not destined to make good.

Before this decision had been rendered, however, Gov. Belcher of Massachusetts had conceived the idea of establishing townships within the disputed limits. Accordingly, the house of representatives of the general court of Massachusetts passed an act July 3, 1732, in which the council concurred April 20, 1733, and which the governor approved on the same day, establishing four new towns, one to be in what is now Massachusetts, one in Maine, and two on the Ashuelot river. That day, April 20, 1733, was accordingly the date of the first establishment of this municipality, which was known as Upper Ashuelot. It was not immediately settled. On Oct. 19, 1733, the general court appointed a new committee, consisting of Joseph Kellogg, Timothy Dwight and William Chandler, with directions to lay out the townships on Ashuelot river forthwith. They made a report in the following February. This report is accompanied by a report of the surveyors, William Chandler and Nathaniel Dwight. They established as their initial station from which to execute their surveys a spruce tree on the east bank of the Ashuelot. A line east and west from this tree was the dividing line between the upper and lower townships which they were to survey. On the map which accompanies their report, they locate this tree, with the legend: "Ye spruce tree heare Described is ye Sentor tree in ye Deviding line betwene ye Secontt & Third township which we made our first

Station." Our city clerk, in 1902, reported that "persons living in Keene have seen the old bound which marked the location of the first 'Statia,' an old spruce tree, long since removed." It has been customary to call this central point of that original survey Statia, and a former map named the Thompson farm on which it is found Statia. The name, however, was intended to be a designation of that survey-point. On March 6, 1902, our city councils voted to mark it by a stone post, on the north side of which are the letters, "K. & S. T. L.," for Keene and Swanzey Town Line. On the south side is inscribed, "No. VIII," it being the eighth post in the line between Keene and Swanzey indicating that line. On the east side is the inscription: "Statia. 1733." It is well that this historical landmark of our history is thus preserved.

The foregoing committees, being authorized to admit settlers, notified all persons desirous of taking lots to meet at Concord on June 26, 1734. A sufficient number for the purpose met on that day, at Jonathan Ball's inn at Concord, Mass. They drew their lots, gave their bonds, and paid in their five pounds in lawful money, according to the order of the court. Sixty proprietors were thus admitted for Upper Ashuelot. On the following day, June 27, the proprietors met and organized, at the inn of Ephraim Jones in the said Concord. They chose Capt. Samuel Sady of Medfield, moderator, and Samuel Heywood of Concord, Mass., clerk. They adjourned their meeting until Sept. 18, to be held at their new township of Upper Ashuelot.

As the time for this adjourned meeting approached, seven men of the proprietors started for their proposed settlement. It was late in the evening of Sept. 18, 1734, when these seven men and their guides reached the boundary of their new township at the "Statia" monument. They immediately opened a proprietors' meeting, which they adjourned until the day following. We are fortunate in knowing the exact date of the settlement, as well as the seven men who first crossed the boundary of the township with the intention of settling. They were Jeremiah Hall, Daniel Hoar, Seth Heaton, Elisha Root, Nathaniel Rockwood, Josiah Fisher (afterwards slain by the Indians), and William Puffer.

The house lots of the proprietors were drawn June 26, 1734, and were laid out according to a plan submitted at that meeting. Of the sixty-three lots nine were to be on the line of Lower Ashuelot. The other fifty-four were to be on two sides of a main street, four rods in width, twenty-seven upon either side. These lots were to be 160 rods in length, east and west, and eight rods in width, north and south, the street to run north and south through the centre of the lots. The north line of the north lot upon the west of the street very nearly coincided with the foundations of the southern wall of our railway station. Oct. 1, at a meeting adjourned from Sept. 30, 1736, the proprietors voted to widen the main street four rods, making a street eight rods in width, the settlers readily relinquishing four rods on the east of their lots in return for four rods at the west end. It is to the wise forethought of the proprietors at that meeting that we are indebted for that magnificent boulevard which forms our present Main street.

It was two or three years before the settlers had accommodations which enabled them to move their families or spend the winter here. They were scarcely prepared to do so before the news reached them that the king in council had settled the line between New Hampshire and Massachusetts, which left their new settlement well within the limits of New Hampshire. This was a source of great grief to the settlers, who were devotedly attached to old Massachusetts, from which they came. The king's decision was made March 5, 1740, and on the 3d of October in the same year, the proprietors of Upper Ashuelot held a meeting and voted that a petition be presented to the king's most excellent majesty, setting forth their distress at this decision and praying to be annexed to Massachusetts, to which they had always supposed that they belonged, and Thomas Hutchinson, Esq., was appointed to present the petition. Mr. Hutchinson had previously been appointed as an agent of Massachusetts to do the same thing. He made the voyage to England, but failed to accomplish the object of his mission.

The hardships of the infant settlement were made especially distressing in consequence of a malignant throat distemper, perhaps diphtheria, which raged in the years 1744 and 1745. A large number died, especially of children. John Andrews had come from Boxford, Mass., bringing with him nine children, all of whom succumbed to this disease within a year.

In the spring of 1744, war was declared between England and France. It is usually called, in American histories, King George's war. It had its origin in disputes concerning the kingdom of Austria which cannot be discussed here. The settlers were greatly alarmed, for the policy of the French in Canada, as an aid to the French side of the contest, was to encourage incursions of savages from that section to harass their English neighbors in the provinces to the south of them. The dwellers in Upper Ashuelot dared not perform their usual labors, or indeed to go far from the fort, without carrying arms and posting guards to be constantly on the watch for savages who were presumed to be lurking in the neighborhood. The first fatal encounter was on the 10th of July in 1745, when Deacon Josiah Fisher was killed, a little south of the present residence of Mrs. Griffin, as he was driving his cow to pasture.

An episode in the life of Ephraim Dorman, an early settler, serves to show the tremendous physical energy and endurance of these pioneer settlers. In the morning of the 23d of April, 1746, Mr. Dorman left the fort, which was near the present residence of Mr. Lemuel Hayward, to search for his cow. When he was some distance away, he perceived Indians lurking in the bushes. He immediately gave an alarm, crying "Indians! Indians!" and ran in the direction of the fort. Two of the Indians sprang towards him and fired at him, but neither hit him. They then threw away their arms and advanced towards him. Mr. Dorman knocked one of them senseless, the other he seized and, being a strong man, wrestled with him, using his favorite method of "trip and twitch." He tore the Indian's blanket from his shoulders, leaving him nearly naked. As the Indian was painted and greasy, he managed to slip away

from Mr. Dorman, who reached the fort in safety. On the same day, a Mrs. McKenney, who had gone to her barn, near where Mrs. Thayer now lives, to milk her cow, on her return was fatally stabbed by a naked Indian, probably the same one who had wrestled with Dorman. On the same day John Bullard, running to the fort from his barn, below where Mr. Hayward lives, was also shot in the back. He was taken into the fort and expired in a few hours. On the same day a circumstance occurred which gives a glimpse of the physical ability and endurance of our foremothers. A Mrs. Clark was at her barn, fifty rods from the fort. As she left it to go to the fort, she saw an Indian near her, who threw away his gun and sprang toward her, evidently with the intention of making a prisoner of her. She gathered her clothes around her waist and started for the fort. It was a splendid running match. The woman, animated by the cheers of her friends, outran the swift Indian, who, undoubtedly mortified that he had been beaten by a white squaw, skulked back for his gun.

Murder was not the only evil to be dreaded at the hands of the savages. To be made a captive by the Indians and dragged to Canada, through the pathless forests of a howling wilderness, entailed horrors and sufferings which words cannot adequately describe. Many a poor captive on his march has wished that the fatal tomahawk might have ended his mortal life before the awful journey began. Nathan Blake, on the day that these Indians attacked the settlement, leaving his barn, near where Milton Blake resides, fearing that he could not reach the fort, undertook to escape in the direction of the river. He was apprehended and taken to Canada. His captors could speak English in a broken way. When he remarked that he had not taken any breakfast, they replied that "it must be a poor Englishman who could not go to Canada without his breakfast." The story of Nathan Blake is so familiar that it will not bear repetition here. It will be enough to say that he returned from his captivity and died, in 1811, in the hundredth year of his age.

News of the attack upon Keene was soon sent by special messengers from town to town, down the Ashuelot and Connecticut valleys, as far as Northampton, where Col. Pomeroy commanded. He immediately took all the forces that he could muster and added to them on his way, reaching Upper Ashuelot forty-eight hours after the attack had begun, on the 25th of April. He found the trail of the retreating Indians but did not attempt to follow it far. In this attack upon the settlement about nine or ten of the savages were killed. Feeling that immediate danger had passed, Col. Pomeroy and his men returned to their homes.

In the spring of 1747 the settlers felt so insecure that they resolved to leave their settlement for a time and did so. Shortly after their departure, a party of savages visited the place and burned most of the buildings. The mill, however, and the house where the miller lived, and probably some other buildings were spared. As the place was not totally destroyed, and as the original settlers returned after a short absence, in 1750 and 1751, the fact holds good that the first settlement must be dated from Sept. 18, 1734.

Shortly after the settlers resumed their settlement, they applied to Benning Wentworth, governor of New Hampshire, for a charter. Accordingly he granted one to them, including the territory formerly known as Upper Ashuelot and an additional strip upon the east side, bringing the bounds, at that time, as far east as the old Masonian Patent line which formed the western limit of that territory which a famous syndicate, known as "The Masonian Proprietors," had recently purchased of John Tufton Mason, a claimant of the rights in that land vesting in him as the heir of the original John Mason, to whom New Hampshire had been granted, in 1629, with bounds of a very indefinite character. Time cannot here be taken to recite the story of that patent. The name given to the newly chartered township was Keene, an undoubted compliment to Wentworth's friend, Sir Benjamin Keene, who was, at one time, the minister plenipotentiary from Great Britain to the court of Spain. The first meeting of the voters, under the new charter, was on the first Wednesday of May, 1753, at which meeting it was voted to pay Benjamin Bellows 122 Spanish milled dollars for his services and expenses in procuring the charter. The charter bears the date of April 11, 1753. We are therefore two months and twenty-three days late in our celebration of the event today.

From this time the Indians gave but little trouble. Once in 1755, during the old French and Indian war, they appeared and captured a man named Benjamin Twitchell near Ash Swamp. Still later, they appeared and burned an old building in the direction of Surry. After this, the new town was not disturbed by them. From that time to the present day, the civic affairs of Keene have been transacted in an orderly, peaceful, and honorable manner. The old town meeting was the miniature model of a genuine republic. Here any voter could offer suggestions and cast his vote and feel that he was on a political equality with all his neighbors. Those old meetings were not without their breezy episodes. The building or repairing of a meetinghouse, the settlement of a new minister, the laying out of a new highway, the building of a new schoolhouse, the election of the town officers and the selection of one or more to represent the town in the general court, and the general appropriations, all brought out very animated debates, as the occasions would arise, but the majorities ruled and, however stubbornly any measure was favored or opposed, nobody doubted the sacred right of the majority to decide any question.

The most important political event in the history of Keene, since its incorporation by Benning Wentworth, was the change from a town to a city. The city charter was granted by the state legislature on the 3d of July in 1873, just thirty years ago yesterday. The first city government was installed on the 5th of May in 1874, with the Hon. Horatio Colony as the first mayor.

As we pass in hasty review the 150 years of municipal life since Keene was incorporated by that name, only a few of the most noted events can claim our attention here. The history of Keene cannot be given in a brief discourse. The admirable history, written by our late distinguished and lamented citizen, Gen. S. G. Griffin, will shortly appear,

and the multitude of interesting particulars which must be omitted in this review, or only incidentally noticed, will there be treated fully.

In 1764, the first school was established and six pounds voted to defray the expenses. This was surely a humble beginning of the educational history of Keene, but it was a vital spark which has kindled a great fire. From that humble beginning we trace the steady expansion of the public school system within the limits of Keene. There were, at one time, fourteen school districts in the town, including the one known as the Centre district. In 1831 there was no one of these districts which had less than twenty-five pupils. Since that time, the country districts have steadily declined in population, while the village, now the city, section has been as steadily gaining. The old country schoolhouses are still, for the most part, preserved and the most of them are still used for schools for some portion of the year, but the number of pupils has greatly decreased. Our school buildings in the city proper would do credit to any place of the size of Keene. They are a worthy exponent of public sentiment with respect to the importance of education.

Keene has taken high rank in educational institutions. On the 1st of May, 1814, Miss Catherine Fiske established a boarding and day school for young ladies in the house where Mrs. E. C. Thayer lives. It was unique at the time in this vicinity. The pupils represented families of culture and refinement and the young ladies were instructed not only in books but in such polite accomplishments as would fit them to take their stations in the most elegant society. Miss Fiske died in 1837. The institution survived for a short time longer under those who had been her assistants.

The old Keene academy was established in 1836 and opened in 1837. It had vital relations with the First Congregational church. The building, still well remembered by many, occupied the site of the present high school. The lower room was used by the aforenamed church as a vestry. The academy continued to provide instruction for seventeen years, until 1853, when the high school was established. There were in all about ten principals. The first was Breed Batchelder, a descendant of the man of that name who first settled Packersfield, at a place now in Roxbury. The last was William Torrance, who became the first principal of the high school. In 1853, the academy not having adequate funds to maintain such an institution, and a high school having been established, the trustees leased their building to the town for that school. Mr. Torrance, the first principal of the school, died in February, 1855. After two more principals, who served short terms, Mr. A. J. Burbank, aided by his accomplished wife, took up the work of this school, remaining until 1867, and bringing order out of chaos and establishing a high school of much merit. There were then about eighty pupils. The "Union School District of Keene," formed in 1865, attempted, about 1866, to purchase the building of the Keene academy. Not being able to do this, the property was finally taken by law for school purposes and the trustees accepted, finally, the sum of $6,100 for the full settlement of their claims. This procedure created bitter feeling at the time and not without good reason. The proceeds have been carefully

invested by the trustees. The board of trustees of the Keene academy still exists and has in trust a handsome property which may yet be used for purposes not foreign to the wishes and desires of the founders. It is to be hoped that such may be the case. There is still room for an academy in Keene whose course of study shall not conflict with the functions of the high school and which would meet legitimately the original purposes of the institution. The land on which the old academy building was placed was donated by Mr. Abijah Wilder.[1]

Immediately connected with the educational work of a community, nothing is more needed than a well equipped library. From an early period there had been small circulating libraries in Keene, besides those owned by the different religious societies. These could do but little to meet the increasing need of a general reference library, such as the present age demands. To meet such a demand, the town established a public library in 1859. It was located for many years under the town hall, now the city hall. In 1898, the late Edward C. Thayer presented to the city the Henry Colony house upon West street, and a fund of $5,000 to purchase books was given by his widow, Mrs. Thayer, and his niece, Miss Chapin. The building was remodelled and a book-stack added, and the completed structure was dedicated Feb. 28, 1899. The generous donor did not live to witness the completion of the work.

Journalism is likewise the helpmeet of education. The history of journalism in Keene is especially interesting. Four weekly newspapers, all of much merit for their time, were established in Keene, between 1787 and 1795. They were the New Hampshire Recorder and Weekly Advertiser, the Cheshire Advertiser, the Columbian Informer, and the Rising Sun. All were short-lived. The New Hampshire Sentinel, which is now well along in its second century, was established here in 1799 by John Prentiss, who lived to be the oldest, as he had long been one of the ablest of American journalists. His brother and son were at different times associated with him in the publication of the paper. Among later editors of the paper, not now living, we find the names of Albert Godfrey, Samuel Woodward and Thomas Hale. A grandson of the founder is now connected with the Sentinel company. Oct. 20, 1890, the Sentinel company began the publication of a daily paper known as the Keene Evening Sentinel. Two more short lived papers were the American News, merged eventually in the Sentinel, and the New England Observer. The Cheshire Republican is the only paper in Keene which has been devoted to the interests of the Democratic party. This paper, as the successor of the Farmers' Museum, has a quite venerable antiquity. Under the older name, it originated in Walpole, in 1793, under the editorial management of the celebrated Isaiah Thomas, assisted by a Mr. Carlisle. In 1796 it passed under the editorial care of Joseph Dennie, a literary character of his time, who afterwards edited the Portfolio in Philadelphia. He was a descendant of the Mr. Green who edited the old Boston News-letter, the first

[1] Azel Wilder had conveyed his interest in the same lot to Abijah Wilder, for a nominal consideration, that it might be legally conveyed to the trustees of the academy, of whom he was one.

American newspaper. After the office was moved to Keene, the paper was edited by Nahum Stone. Under the present name, it has been edited by Renaiah Cook, Harvey A. Bill, Horatio Kimball, Morse & Allen, Julius N. Morse, and Joshua D. Colony & Sons. There is no other town in the state which can boast of two papers as old as the two in Keene. As we turn back the files of the old volumes of these journals, we find that both papers have had able editors, whose carefully written editorials have done much in shaping public opinion, one way or another, in this county and vicinity.

The most important events in the history of all the old New England towns, in their earlier days, were connected with the settlement of ministers and the locating and building of meetinghouses. Keene was no exception. These incidents in the history of Keene have been so often and so well told on the occasion of different church anniversaries that I can well pass over them rapidly.

All early New England towns were required by their grants or charters to support an "orthodox minister of the gospel." One of the first cares of our forefathers after they began the infant settlement was to organize a church and ordain a pastor. They did both, Oct. 18, 1738, and Rev. Jacob Bacon was their minister's name. He was a useful man in many ways. He was early made clerk of the proprietors, and the first records are principally in his handwriting. They are remarkably legible for that period, quite full, and probably very accurate. He remained as the pastor until the colonists dispersed in 1747. The last appropriation was for his official year ending on the 18th of October in 1747. He was, however, released from responsibility when the settlers temporarily left their home. The rude church in which he ministered was at the lower end of Main street, about where the house of Mr. Elisha F. Lane stands. It was erected pursuant to a vote passed Oct. 1, 1736. The vote stipulated that it should be finished by June 26, 1737. It was a framed building and was destroyed by the savages after the settlers left the place.

The second pastor of the first church was Rev. Ezra Carpenter, who was installed Oct. 4, 1753, in connection with the church at Swanzey. His ministry was continued seven full years from that date, when he relinquished the Keene charge and remained with the Swanzey church. In the spring and early summer of 1753 another meetinghouse was erected in Keene. It was built of slabs, with the earth for a floor, near where the late John Henry Elliot resided. In December of that year they voted to build another meetinghouse, and, in January, decided to put it at a place which would not be far from the present Cheshire House.

The third pastor was Rev. Clement Sumner, who, through his wife, became an extensive landowner and real estate dealer. He owned large tracts of land in Keene, Gilsum, Sullivan and the vicinity. He was ordained June 11, 1761, and dismissed April 30, 1772.

The fourth pastor was the Rev. Aaron Hall, the ancestor of persons of that name who have lived in Keene until quite recently. He was ordained Feb. 18, 1778, in the midst of the Revolutionary war, and

remained the faithful and honored pastor of the church until his death Aug. 12, 1814. During his long pastorate of more than thirty-six years, he aided the town to grow from a rude settlement to an important village, a sort of metropolis in this region. During his ministry the present church was built, but stood seventy feet south of its present position. At a later date it was removed to its present site and has been several times remodelled. In its present form, it is one of the choicest gems of architecture in New Hampshire. Its pure, classic style, its harmonious proportions and its stately spire are the admiration of all true lovers of art.

The pastorate of Mr. Hall was succeeded by the very short one of Rev. David Oliphant, of only two and a half years, from May 24, 1815, to Dec. 1, 1817 (not November, 1817, as some authorities give it). The sixth and next pastor was the Rev. Zedekiah S. Barstow, D. D., so well remembered by all of my older hearers, one of the most useful and accomplished men who have ever lived in Keene. He was ordained July 1, 1818. The fiftieth anniversary of this event was observed in a fitting manner. On that day he became the pastor emeritus and so continued until his death, March 1, 1873. He was the last pastor settled by the town, and here I must close the more particular account of ecclesiastical affairs.

A second trinitarian Congregational church was organized Oct. 15, 1867. Their church edifice, erected at a cost of $35,000, was dedicated Sept. 16, 1869. They have had six pastors.

A Baptist church was gathered at Ash Swamp, Sept. 9, 1816, through the efforts of Rev. Charles Cummings. A new organization was effected at the village and a pastor ordained Aug. 21, 1832. The first church was at Ash Swamp, the second edifice on Winter street, now the armory. Their present commodious structure, built at a cost of $52,000, was dedicated May 12, 1875. They have had thirteen regular pastors, of whom the Rev. Wm. H. Eaton, D. D., who remained sixteen and a half years, served the parish much longer than any other.

The Methodist Episcopalians had preaching here at irregular intervals between 1803 and 1824. Keene was included in the Winchester circuit from 1824 to 1834. From 1834 to 1851, they were supplied from adjoining towns. In November, 1835, a church was organized, known as Grace Methodist Episcopal church. Since 1850, that church has had the benefit of local pastors, of whom there have been twenty-six in all. The present fine house of worship was built at a cost of about $40,000, and was dedicated on Nov. 23, 1869.

The Unitarian society was organized March 18, 1824, and a church was gathered Dec. 27, 1825. Their first meetinghouse was dedicated April 28, 1830. It was rebuilt and rededicated Aug. 16, 1868. The present handsome stone church on Washington street was dedicated Jan. 24, 1895, the corner stone having been laid on the 11th of July, 1894. This society has had six pastors. The first was Thomas Russell Sullivan, the second was Rev. Abiel Abbot Livermore, D. D., later a president of the Meadville Theological school. The third pastor, Rev. William Orne White,

ministered to the society for twenty-seven years, an unusually long pastorate for the present time. His useful and benevolent life in this city is gratefully remembered. He still resides in Brookline, Mass., having recently been bereaved of his excellent wife. The next two pastorates were quite brief. The present pastor, Rev. C. B. Elder, is in the fourteenth year of his ministry in this place.

The Universalists began to hire preachers as early as 1860. The first who settled here was Rev. I. C. Knowlton, father of the late attorney general of Massachusetts. A church was organized March 12, 1876. They have worshipped in the town (now city) hall, in the old Baptist church, now the armory, and in a hall on Roxbury street, where their meetings are now held. They have had four pastors.

The parish of St. James' Protestant Episcopal church was organized May 13, 1859. Ground was broken for the beautiful church on West street, May 14, 1863. The building was first used Aug. 21, 1864, but was not consecrated until Nov. 22, 1877, after the debt had been extinguished. The present pastor is the tenth in succession. The esteemed first rector honored this community by establishing a permanent residence here, where his many virtues and cultivated tastes have imparted a beneficent influence for many years.

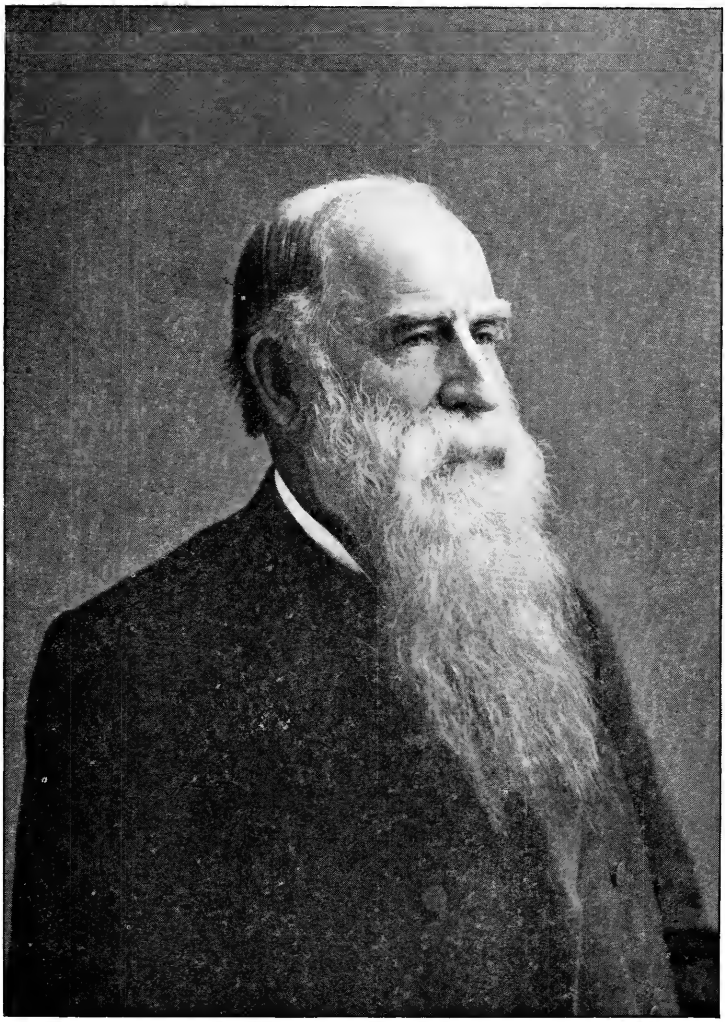
The Roman Catholics began their labors in Keene as early as 1856. Eleven priests have successively ministered to the needs of their people, assisted, at different times, by as many as five others. The parishioners have been very devoted to their cause. Their first place of worship was a wooden structure on Marlboro street. Their elegant church on Main street, built after great exertions and many sacrifices, was consecrated Nov. 20, 1892.

Besides these older established churches, we have today the Bethany Pentecostal church, which worships in what was once the Methodist church, but now moved to a new location; a mission of the First church on George street; the Gospel Mission, on Pine street; a new church started by our Swedish citizens; and a Seventh Day Advent society. There was formerly, also, what was called a Christian Advent society.

The military history of Keene is a familiar story and needs only to be epitomized here. There were men from Keene in the old French war, so-called. Keene's Revolutionary history, the reception of the news from Lexington and Concord, the departure of Wyman and his men for the seat of the conflict, the heroic services of Keene men at Bennington, Saratoga, in the Jerseys, and on the eventful expedition to Canada, have all been much discussed at recent meetings of patriotic societies.

There were men from Keene in the old Indian wars. One of them, Major Josiah Willard, died while engaged in such service. There were Keene men also in the War of 1812 and in the Mexican war.

In the great Civil war, besides Brevet Major General S. G. Griffin, who lived here after the war, Keene gave Brevet Brigadier General Francis S. Fiske, Colonel Robert Wilson, Lieutenant Colonel John W. Babbitt, Majors Obed G. Dort and Edward E. Sturtevant, Surgeon George B. Twitchell, Captains Henry C. Handerson, Henry N. Metcalf, Solon A.



GEORGE B. TWITCHELL.

Carter, and John W. Sturtevant, as well as many more officers of lesser rank and scores of private soldiers. Let us hope that, before it is too late, full biographical details may be written of the deeds of all these brave men in that memorable struggle.

In the last war, that between the United States and Spain, Keene was represented in the New Hampshire regiment by Captain Paul F. Babbidge and many others.

As we approach modern times, we cast one look at the long line of worthy men who have helped to shape the destiny and the fortunes of Keene. We see a long line of lawyers, whose efforts at the bar, or in the discharge of public duties, have given lustre to their names. Among them are Elijah Williams, the first lawyer; Daniel Newcomb, a judge of the superior court, and first state senator from Keene; Peleg Sprague, elected to congress in 1797; Noah Cooke; Samuel Dinsmoor, Sr., elected to congress in 1811, a governor of New Hampshire; Samuel Dinsmoor, Jr., another governor of the state; James Wilson, Sr., elected to congress in 1809; James Wilson, Jr., who rose to the rank of general in the militia and served in congress; Levi Chamberlain, a member of the Peace congress of 1861; Joel Parker, chief justice from 1838 to 1848, later a professor of law at Harvard university; Joseph Buffum, who served in congress; Salma Hale, who also served in congress and wrote a prize history of the United States; George S. Hale, son of the preceding, who was one of the most honored trust lawyers of Boston; Thomas M. Edwards, first president of the Cheshire railroad, also a member of congress; Elijah Parker; Foster Alexander; Elijah Dunbar; Phineas Handerson; Phineas Fiske; William P. Wheeler; Farnum F. Lane; Francis A. Faulkner, who declined a seat upon the bench of the supreme court; William Henry Burt; John Henry Elliot; Edward Farrar, long the clerk of the courts; C. C. Webster; and the late Francis C. Faulkner, who, like his father, declined promotion to the bench.[1]

We see, too, a succession of physicians, noted for their skill and success, including Dr. Pomeroy, who refused to sign the Association Test, during the Revolution; Thaddeus McCarty, who introduced into Keene the inoculation for the small-pox; Daniel Adams, an early postmaster; still another Daniel Adams, who was the author of valuable school textbooks; Amos Twitchell, who has been aptly called "the autocrat of surgery in New England," whose skill and genius earned for him an extensive reputation and an immense practice; Charles G. Adams, a son of the first named Daniel, whose sunny face and genial manners in the sick room are still well remembered; Algernon S. Carpenter, who was for many years one of our most honored physicians; George B. Twitchell, a nephew of Amos, an able surgeon, widely known and universally respected; Thomas B. Kittredge; Ira F. Prouty; Thomas E. Hatch; and H. H. Darling, a homeopathist well remembered.

Two dentists cannot be forgotten, the elder and the younger Stratton, the latter the nephew of the former. They were ingenious mechanics and were masters of their profession as it was practised in their time.

[1] Alfred T. Batchelder, a prominent lawyer, lived but a few days after this address was delivered. No living person was mentioned.

I shall attempt no account of the numerous secret and other social organizations in Keene, nor can I attempt to name the long roll of business men who did so much to build up this prosperous city. David Nims, first town clerk; John Elliot, Justus Perry, Sumner Wheeler, the two Halls, John H. Fuller, Francis Faulkner, Josiah Colony, Charles S. Faulkner, Aaron Appleton, William Dinsmoor; S. W. Hale, governor of the state; S. D. Osborne, Lanmon Nims; Henry Colony, first president of the Manchester & Keene railroad; the latter's brothers, Timothy, Alfred and John Edward; also Joshua D. Colony and sons, L. J. and O. E., E. C. Thayer, George Tilden, George W. Tilden, E. G. Whitcomb, J. R. Beal, Charles Bridgman, Elbridge and Charles Keyes, J. B. Elliot, Charles Lamson, Reuel Nims, Eliphalet and William S. Briggs, Henry Pond, Abijah Wilder, Abijah Kingsbury; also Jeremiah Stiles, the old land surveyor; are a few only of the names of those who have passed on to the great majority, in former years, among our business men. More recently the names of Peter B. Hayward, Caleb T. Buffum, G. D. Harris and Edward Joslin have been added to the number. This list will be conspicuous for the many names which it omits, nor can I allude to the business of any who are now living.

The succession of public improvements in Keene has been rapid in the past half century. Men now living have witnessed the completion of three steam railroads into this place, now operated by one company; the introduction of the telegraph and the telephone; the establishment of a good fire department, with two steamers; paved streets, macadamized highways, and a street sprinkling apparatus; the inauguration of a system of water works which supplies the city with an abundance of pure water; an adequate system of drainage; the introduction of illuminating gas and more recently of electric lighting; the founding of the Invalids' Home and of the Elliot City Hospital, which last named institution preserves the name of a generous benefactor, as well as the Edward Joslin Home for Nurses which adjoins it; the building of the headquarters for the Young Men's Christian Association on West street; the founding of a daily newspaper; and, last of all, the construction of two lines of electric railways, under one company, the second of which was opened to travel yesterday. All these useful institutions and improvements are comparatively recent. They are but a few of all that might be named, although they are the more important.

In addition to these public utilities, we must remember our park system, for which we are indebted to our worthy citizen, Mr. George A. Wheelock, as well as to certain ladies.

Now, as we look to the future, we fancy that the comforts of life which it has been our privilege to enjoy, manifold as they seem to us, are but few in comparison with the luxuries which applied science will bring to future generations. Let us be grateful for any part, however small, which it shall be the good fortune of any one of us to take in promoting the welfare of our honored town and city. Let the recollection of those worthy forefathers, some of whose names have been so hastily brought to your notice, stimulate you all to do your whole duty that

the Keene of the future may sustain the enviable reputation which the Keene of the past has enjoyed, of being one of the most orderly and best governed, as well as one of the most beautiful cities in the American Union.

Additions and Corrections.

Discrepancies in the spelling of proper names were common in the early days. To determine which of the various spellings are correct is well nigh impossible. For this reason uniformity has not been attempted in every case.

In the Biographical Sketches, pages 555 to 670, no living person has been included, and the likeness of no living person is given among the illustrations.

Page 10, line 2; for "Bethsaida" read "Bethesda."

Page 293, foot note; for "minister" lot read "ministry" lot.

Page 404, line 13; for "Ellis" read "Eells."

Page 461, line 6; for "Association" read "Union."

Page 476. Between records of Streeter and Towns insert:

Totten, James. Co. G; age 32; res. Marlboro; enl. April 22, '61; must. out Aug. 9, '61. See Fourteenth N. H. V.

Page 480, line 2; for "Bermuda Hundreds" read "Bermuda Hundred."

Page 481. Between records of Bridge and Califf insert:

Britton, John L. Co. A; age 42; res. Surry, after the war Keene; enl. Aug. 18, '61; must. in as musc.; app. prin. musc. Oct. 10, '61; disch. disab. June 13, '62, Williamsburg, Va. See V. R. C.

Page 501. Between records of Metcalf and Muchmore insert:

Mitchell, John E. Co. G; age 33; res. Walpole; enl. Nov. 6, '61; disch. Jan. 19, '63, Philadelphia. See Fourteenth N. H. V.

Page 511. Between records of Hastings, John G., and Healey insert:

Hayes, Joseph R. Co. D; age 21; enl. March 9, '65; must. out July 8, '65. See U. S. navy.

Page 512. Between records of Nims and O'Brien insert:

O'Brien, John. Co. D; age 20; enl. Feb. 28, '65; must. out July 8, '65. See miscel. org.

Page 514. To the history of the Sixteenth New Hampshire Volunteers add the following record:

Beverstock, Daniel O. Co. G; age 20; res. Nelson, after the war Keene; enl. Sept. 13, '62; must. out Aug. 20, '63. See Eighteenth N. H. V.

Page 673. Among the selectmen in the year 1849, for "Lanman" Nims read "Lanmon" Nims.

Page 674. Among the selectmen in the year 1871, for "Lanman" Nims read "Lanmon" Nims.

General Index.

(Persons having the same family name, with firms and corporations named after them, are grouped together, although in some instances the strictly alphabetical arrangement of the index is thereby slightly varied. Different individuals bearing the same name are distinguished from each other whenever practicable by the use of some brief explanation, title or number. When numbers are used, no relationship is to be necessarily implied between the persons thus numbered.)

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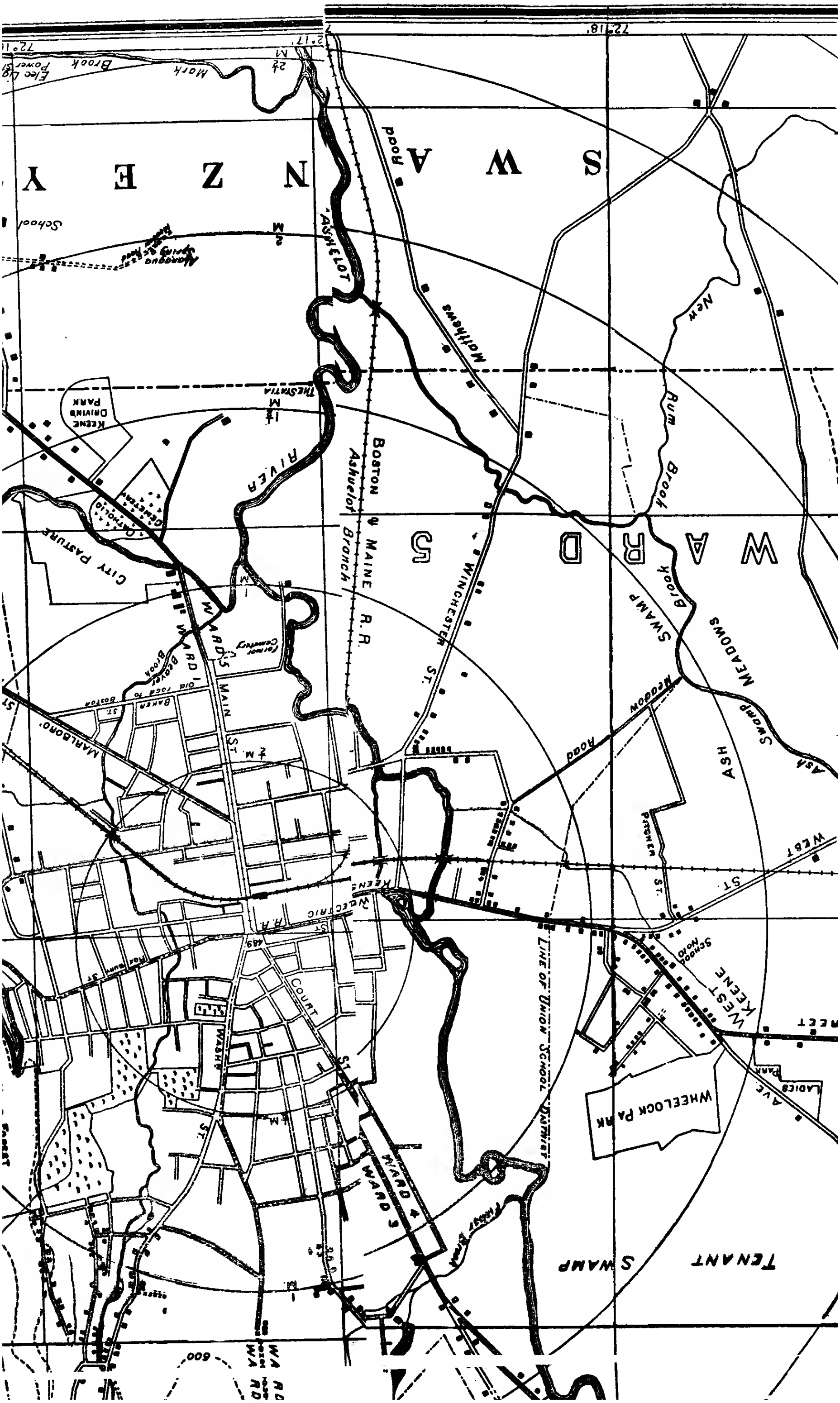
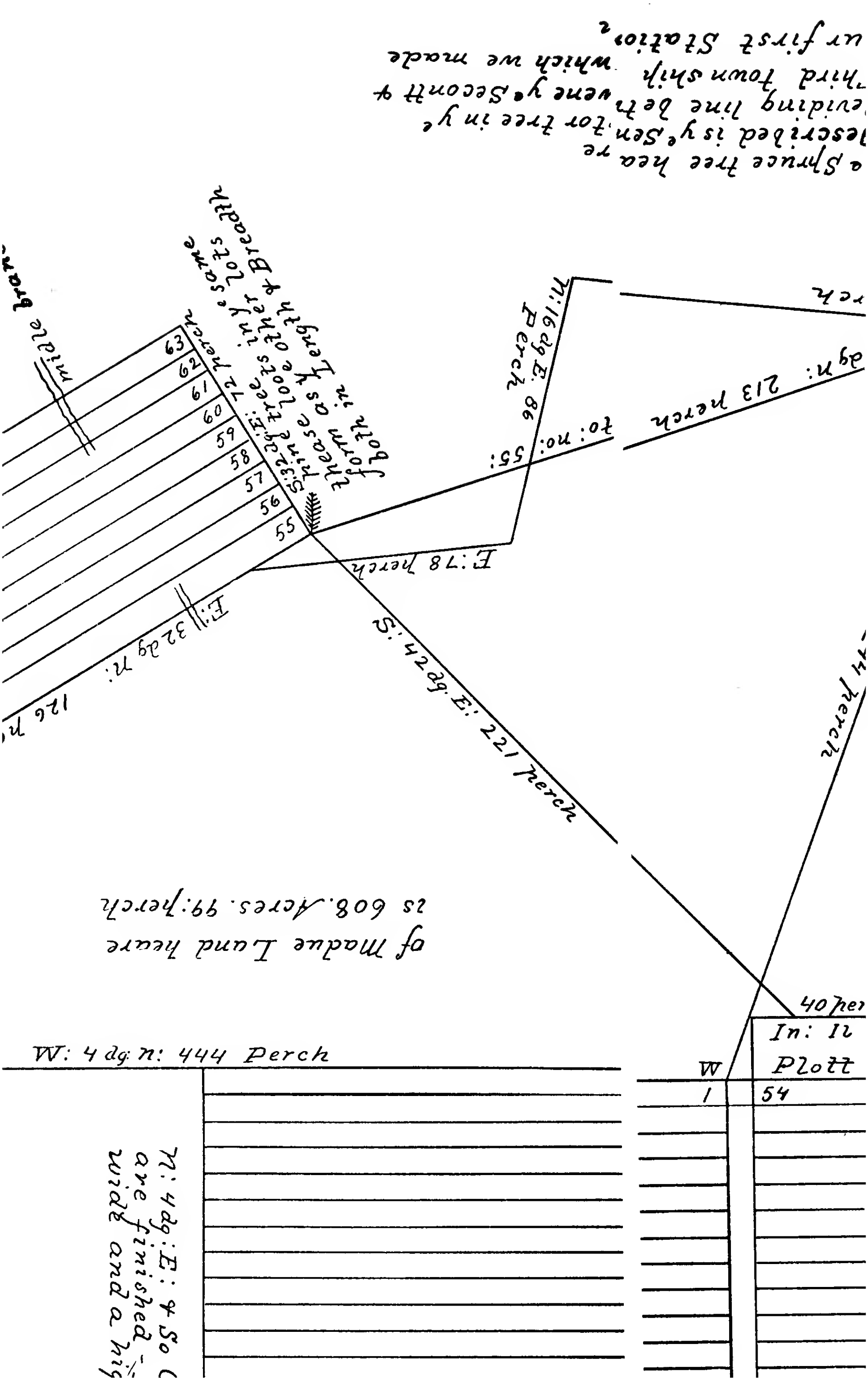
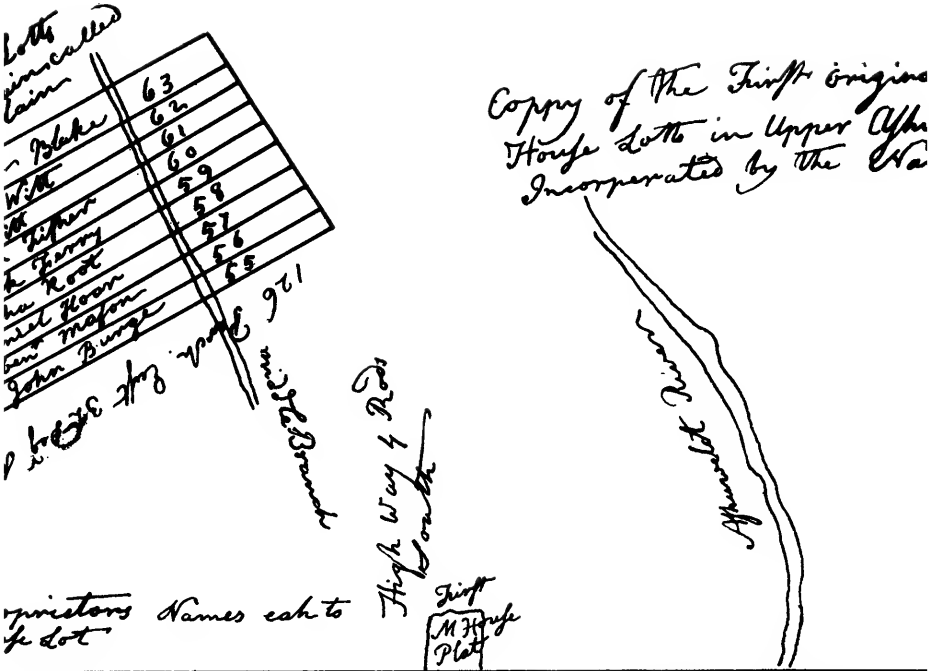

S W A N Z E Y
BOSTON & MAINE R.R.
Ashuelot Branch
ASHUELOT
RIVER
Matthews Road
New Rum Brook
W A R D 5
SWAMP Brook
ASH Swamp MEADOWS
Meadow Road
WINCHESTER ST.
KEENE DRIVING PARK
CITY PASTURE
Catholic Cemetery
Former Cemetery
Beaver Brook
Old road to Boston
BAKER ST.
MARLBORO ST.
MAIN ST.
WARD 5
WARD 1
PITCHER ST.
WEST ST.
KEENE ELECTRIC R.R.
COURT
WASH'N
ST.
LINE OF UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Union School
WEST KEENE
WHEELOCK PARK
LADIES PARK
AVE
WARD 4
WARD 3
TENANT SWAMP
600



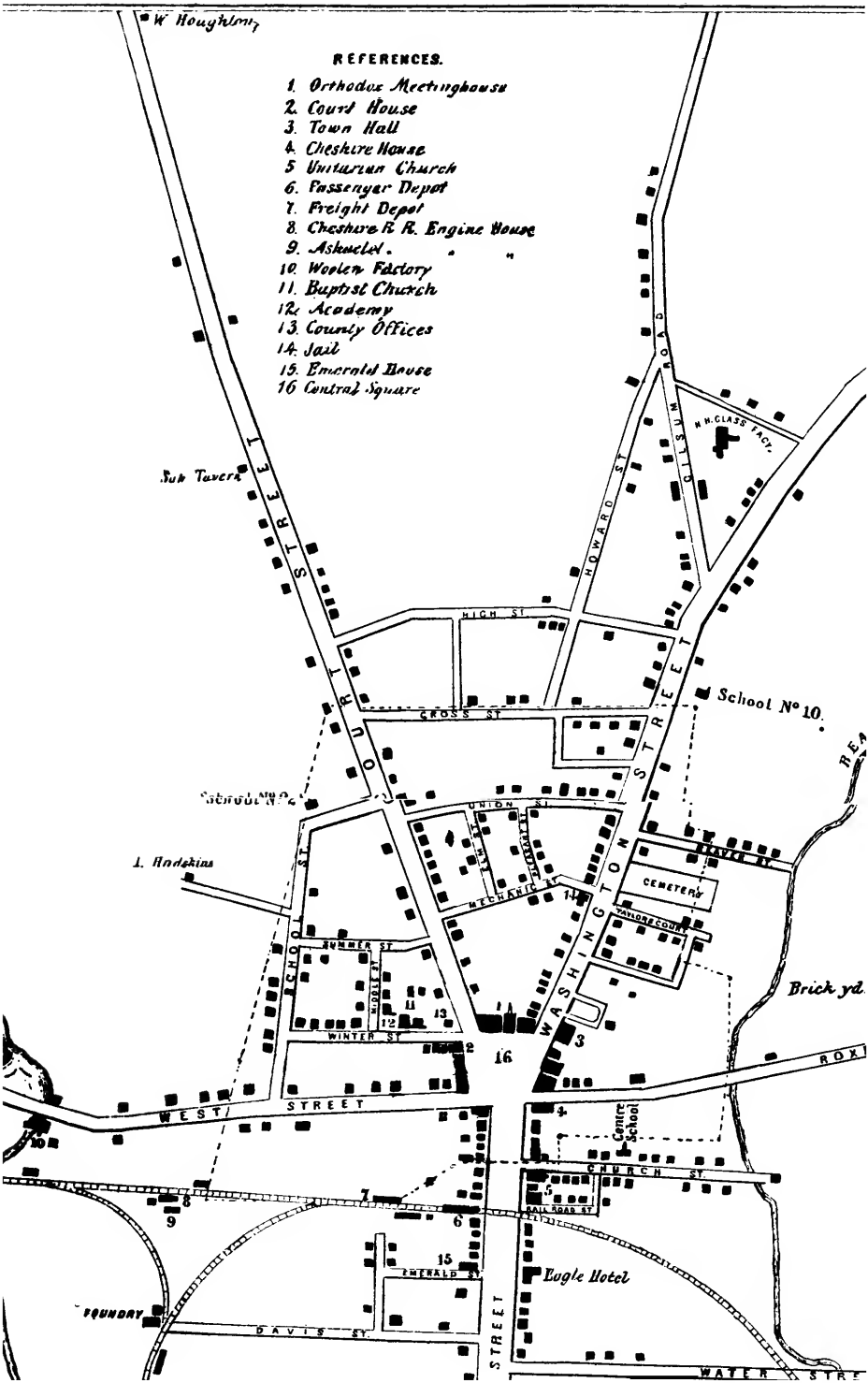
e Spruce tree hea re
escribed is ye Sen. for tree in ye
eviding line betwene ye Secontt &
hird township which we made
ur first Station,
middle bran
63
62
61
60
59
58
57
56
55
S: 32 dg: E: 72 perch
these Lotts ye same
form as ye other Lotts in
both in Length & Breadth
N: 16 dg: E: 86 Perch
to: no: 55:
213 perch
E: 78 perch
E: 32 dg: N: 126 p
S: 42 dg: E: 221 perch
perch
of Madue Land heare
is 608. Acres. 99: perch
40 per
In: 12
Plott
W: 4 dg: N: 444 Perch
W
1
54
N: 4 dg: E: & So
are finished
wide and a hig



pprietors Names each to
se Lot

nt Sawdy	No 1	54	Edward Twist
mich Hall	2	53	David Harwood
Heywood	3	52	Amos Foster
Witt	4	51	Ebenr Witt
Wright	5	50	Jonas Willson
Flood	6	49	Isaac Tomberlain
mon Kees	7	48	Jabez Ward
than Morton	8	47	Josiah Fisher
Weeks	9	46	Thos Abbott
ac Powars	10	45	Robert Grey
llm Hoaton	11	44	Jonathan Southwick
aser Allen	12	43	John Nims
nister Lot	13	42	Joseph Elles
niel Haws	14	41	John Guild
hn Hawks	15	40	John Corbet
ilemon Chandler	16	39	Nathaniel Rockwoo
obert moor	17	38	Nathan Fairbanks
srael How	18	37	Abraham Master
Willm Witt	19	36	Nichlas Sprague
nathan Whitney	20	35	Joseph Allen
oseph Hill	21	34	Benjamin Whitney
illm Ruffer	22	33	David Chandler
rtholomew Jones	23	32	Isaac Heaton
eph Priest	24	31	David morse
nas Kees	25	30	Edward Hall
illm Smeed	26	29	ministry
oseph Hill	27	28	School Lot

W: 4° North. 160 Rods the length of each Rang
or Teer of Lots


REFERENCES.
1. Orthodox Meetinghouse
2. Court House
3. Town Hall
4. Cheshire House
5 Unitarian Church
6. Passenger Depot
7. Freight Depot
8. Cheshire R. R. Engine House
9. Ashuelot. " "
10. Woolen Factory
11. Baptist Church
12. Academy
13. County Offices
14. Jail
15. Emerald House
16 Central Square
W Houghton
Sub Tavern
COURT STREET
HOWARD ST
GILSUM ROAD
N.H. GLASS FACT.
HIGH ST
CROSS ST
School No 10.
UNION ST
MECHANIC ST
WASHINGTON STREET
CEMETERY
TAYLOR COURT
SUMMER ST
SCHOOL ST
MIDDLE ST
WINTER ST
WEST STREET
Brick yd.
ROX
Centre School
CHURCH ST
RAILROAD ST
EMERALD ST
Eagle Hotel
FOUNDRY
DAVIS ST
STREET
WATER STRE